Featuring THE BLACK HOOD

TOP-NOTCH comics

NO. 22 DEC. 10¢

Supermouse
Startling Comics
Jetta
Mystery Comics
Fantastic Tales
Cosmo Cat
Startling Comics
Strange Mysteries
Daring Adventures
Startling Comics
Mystery Tales
Exciting Comics
Famous Funnies
Strange Worlds
Startling Comics
Jetta
Mystery Tales
Startling Comics
Barnyard Comics
Exciting Comics
Eerie
Exciting Comics
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HERE THEY ARE! THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING LEGENDARY CURIOS, TALISMANS AMULETS & CHARMS

All over the world, in many strange countries, people are alleged to have carried Mascots, Amulets, Charms, Talismans and other curios which they are said to have considered "Lucky Pieces". Many are the almost fantastic lengends which have come down to us about them. For those who collect or carry such Tokens we present, for the first time, a collection of Talismanic Curios. All statements made in describing them are those of writers of standard works and are not to be construed as our own opinions.

GATHERED FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH

GENUINE, POWERFUL, MAGNETIC, ALIVE 'GREY GHOST' BRAND

LODESTONE

There are many legends about the Lodestone. Some regard it as a living thing thought to serve as protection to the wearer. It has been written that the Romans and Assyrians thought it attracted and kept love secure. In India many believed it preserved vigor and vitality. Numerous Mexicans carry it in their belts that it may give success in their undertakings. Ours are genuine, powerful, alive "grey ghost" brand Lodestone only—Item No. 1 **50c**

GENUINE

RABBIT'S FOOT

We don't have to tell you how many people carry a Rabbit's Foot. Many a professional and amateur Gambler, ball player, etc. carries one at all times. We make no super-natural claims but guarantee ours are genuine. Complete with gold lacquered mounting cap and chain. Item No. 2..... **25c**

BEAUTIFUL SERPENT RING

WITH 3 SIMULATED RUBY STONES

Ancient philosophers believed the power of Cleopatra and the Pharoahs came from the serpent. They also believed that the RUBY was a talisman of good Fortune, Wisdom, Power and Success. This Serpentine ring of silvery, oxidized finish has 3 entwined serpents each set with simulated Ruby. FREE Table of alleged Fortunate days with each Ring—Item No. 4..... **$1.00**

GENUINE, REAL

TURQUOISE STONE

From the Fabled Indian Country of Nevada

The Arabs called the turquoise "Fayruz" which means "The Lucky Stone" and they wore it as an amulet. In Persia it was esteemed as a stone of good omen while the Indians of our Southwest prized it most highly. Ours are genuine turquoise stones from the fabled Indian country of Nevada. Item No. 5..... **25c**

EXTRA! SPECIAL! GENUINE, REAL

BRAZILIAN SCARAB

The Scarab was called "the sacred beetle". Temples were built in its honor. It was worn by many soldiers to gain Mastery and Strength and Success. Many native Brazilian Indians wear them thinking to protect themselves from evil and ward off danger. Ours are *genuine, real* Scarabs, imported from Brazil and preserved by Nature in a way to retain the beauty they had when alive. In rich 14-Karat gold plate ring setting. Item No. 7.... **$1.00**

Famous Legendary

JOHN THE CONQUEROR ROOT & RING

This curious Root has had many legends told of it and it is said that many in the Caribbean Islands and even our own Southland carry it at all times. Because it was thought to have "reproductive properties" the custom arose of carrying it always near money. We offer to collectors not only a *genuine* John the Conqueror Root but also a handsome, silvery oxidized finish John the Conqueror Ring as a symbol of the Root. A real value at our price. Item No. 8 ..... **$1.00**

IMPORTED, HAND-CARVED

COROZO NUT RING!

Down in Puerto Rico they tell many incredible legends about the Corozo Nut. It is worn as a love charm or amulet. This ring is actually hand-carved from the nut and inlaid with real mother of pearl. Item No. 3 **75c**

TALISMANIC SEALS

From the famous 'Lost' 6th and 7th Books of Moses

Seals and Psalm Cards have been carried for centuries by Phoenicians, Gnostics and Hebrews in many countries for inspiration. Many have been found in ancient manuscripts which state that they were used for many purposes including: to secure favor, love, friendship, success, protection, etc. We offer 6 different SEALS with Psalms. Item No. 6.... **50c**

THEY CALL THIS THE

CHINESE LUCK RING

The symbols on this ring are supposed to denote "Good Luck, Health, Happiness" and so it is in demand by many people because of its alleged legendary background. In ladies' mens' styles. Non tarnishing chromium finish. Item No. 9 **35c**

Handsome, Embossed

EGYPTIAN SYMBOL RING

Has Egyptian symbols embossed on black enamel finish. A real talismanic ring of unusual beauty. Non tarnishing chromium. Item No. 10..... **59c**

GORGEOUS SIMULATED

MOONSTONE PENDANT

The moonstone has been referred to as "the sacred stone of India" and books on folklore state that it brings Good Fortune, protects travellers and reconciles lovers. This pendant has 14 brilliants resembling DIAMONDS around the simulated MOONSTONE. Looks very expensive. Item No. 11..... **$1.00**

Free YOUR KEY TO POWER

This amazingly interesting book which gives many legends and folklore on Talismans, Amulets and Charms through the Ages is given FREE with each CASH purchase of $1.00 or more. Not included with C.O.D. orders. No C.O.D. orders for less than $1.00. We pay postage on all prepaid orders.

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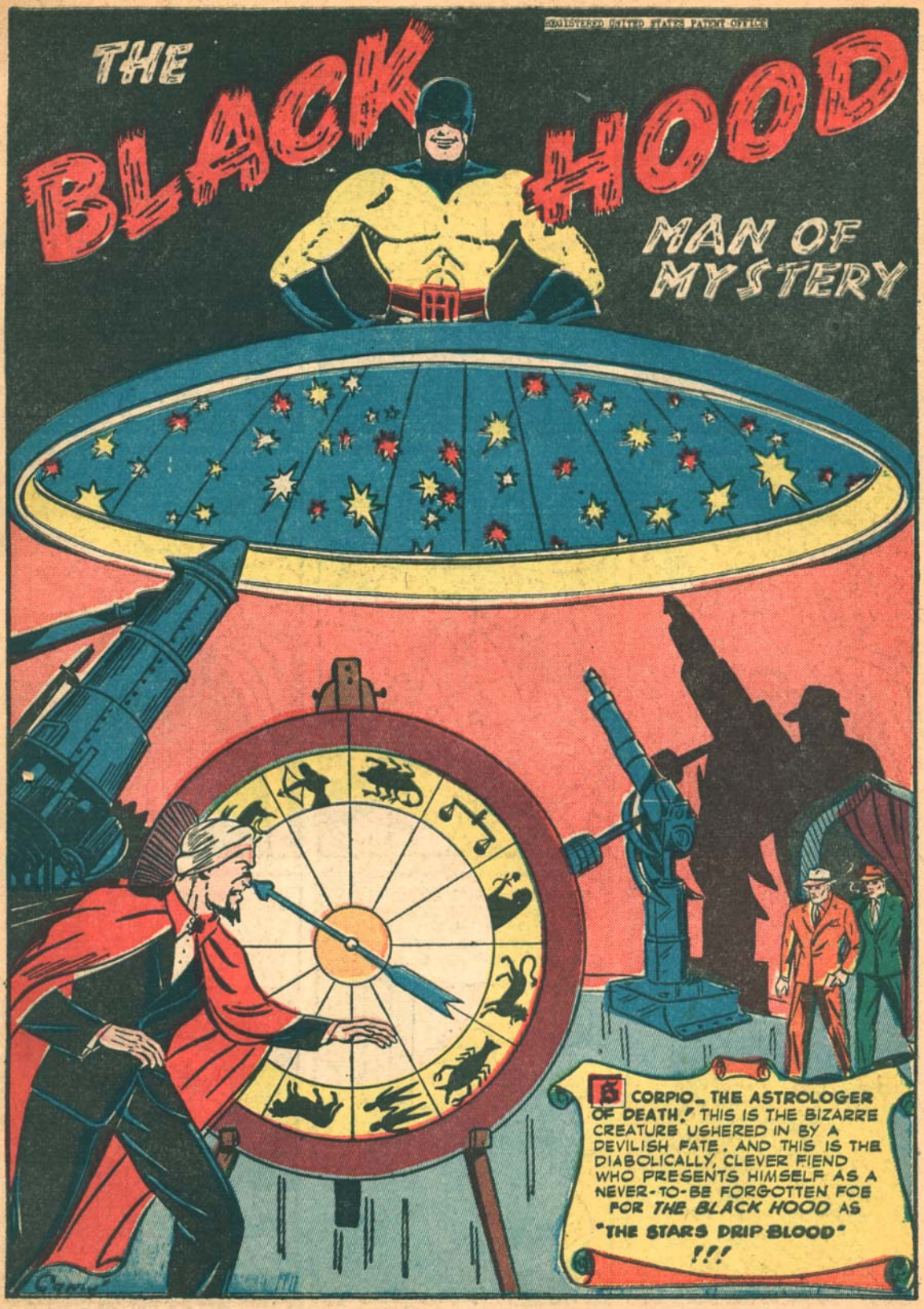

REGISTERED UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE
THE BLACK HOOD
MAN OF MYSTERY
SCORPIO—THE ASTROLOGER OF DEATH.' THIS IS THE BIZARRE CREATURE USHERED IN BY A DEVILISH FATE. AND THIS IS THE DIABOLICALLY, CLEVER FIEND WHO PRESENTS HIMSELF AS A NEVER-TO-BE FORGOTTEN FOE FOR THE BLACK HOOD AS "THE STARS DRIP BLOOD" !!!

OKAY, SCORPIO, OR WHATEVER YER NAME IS, WE GOT YOUR NOTES. WHAT IS IT ANYWAY— A GAG?
IT IS FAR FROM "A GAG" AS YOU CALL IT, MY FRIENDS! YOU ARE TWO OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS RACKETEERS IN THE COUNTRY!

I HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE TO MAKE YOU A PROPOSITION. I, SCORPIO, SHALL ORGANIZE ALL YOU CRIMINALS AS YOU NEVER HAVE BEEN BEFORE!

OBEY MY COMMANDS IMPLICITLY, AND WE SHALL ALL PROFIT HANDSOMELY. WITH MY GENIUS FOR CRIME, THERE IS NOTHING WE CANNOT HAVE. NOTHING!
AND SUPPOSE WE DON'T PLAY BALL WITH YOU?

THAT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE FOR YOU... LET ME SHOW YOU YOUR FATES IN THE STARS!

A SPIN OF THE WHEEL, AND MY CHART SHOWS THAT YOU, DUTCH GORDON ARE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE SAGGITARIUS, THE ARCHER, AS YOUR ZODIACAL SIGN!

ANOTHER SPIN, AND I DETERMINE YOUR FATE ALSO, STRECCHI! LET US SEE WHAT THE STARS HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU!

HOW SAD!... GEMINI, THE TWINS! YOURS WILL BE A MOST REGRETTABLE DEATH!
NUTS! YA CAN'T FRIGHTEN ME WITH THAT TRIPE!

GO PEDDLE THAT HOOEY TO SOMEBODY ELSE, SCORPIO! WE OPERATE THE WAY WE LIKE! 'N WE WARN YA, DON'T TRY TO MUSCLE IN—OR ELSE!

FOOLS, BLIND, STUPID FOOLS! YOU TAKE ME LIGHTLY! PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS WELL. YOUR FATES SHALL SERVE AS A LESSON TO OTHERS!

WHILE, OUTSIDE, WATCHING THE ENTRANCE TO SCORPIO'S HOME....
I SAW THE TWO BIG-SHOT GANGSTERS, GORDON AND STRECCHI GO IN THERE. THEY'LL COME OUT SOONER OR LATER.!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THAT PAIR OF CUT-THROATS TO MAKE A WRONG MOVE FOR A LONG-TIME.! MAYBE THIS IS IT..WONDER WHAT IT IS THEY'RE UP TO, NOW?
AH, HERE THEY COME! EVERYTHING SEEMS QUIET ENOUGH.!
I'M STILL GOING TO KEEP MY EYE ON THEM.. THEY'RE SPLITTING UP! I'LL STRING ALONG WITH GORDON.!
DUTCH GORDON ARRIVES HOME...
HAW, HAW.!.. THAT'S THE BIGGEST LAUGH I'VE HAD IN A LONG TIME.! SO I'M GONNA BE KILLED BY AN ARCHER, HUH.! MAYBE HE MEANS A WOODEN INDIAN.!
AS GORDON OPENS THE DOOR OF HIS APARTMENT—
UGH.!
ZING
GREAT SCOT.! HE'S DEAD.!
3

AND THIS IS WHAT KILLED HIM - A CLEVERLY RIGGED UP CONTRAPTION WHICH RE-LEASED THIS AR-ROW WHEN THE DOOR WAS OPENED!

WHOEVER IS BEHIND THIS WILL PROBABLY BE AFTER STRECCHI TOO. I'M GOING TO HUSTLE OVER TO HIS PLACE!

IN STRECCHI'S APARTMENT..
'N' THEN THIS SCORPIO TELLS ME IF I DON'T STRING ALONG WITH HIM, I'M GON-NA DIE UNDER THE SIGN OF A TWIN!
HA, HA, HA! MAYBE HE'S GONNA SPRING YOUR TWIN BROTHER OUTTA THE PEN PER-SONALLY, EH BUGS?

SUDDENLY:
IT'S A BIG JOKE MY GETTIN' OUTTA THE PEN, EH BUGS! WELL, THE JOKE'S ON YOU!
C..CRIPES! IT'S YOUR TWIN BROTHER, BUGS!

YEAH, BUGS, IT'S ME! YA THOUGHT WHEN YA DOUBLE CROSSED ME INTO THE JUG, YOU GOT ME OUTTA THE WAY FER GOOD, DIDN'T YA? I SWORE I'D GET YA FOR IT, SOMEDAY....

AND NOW I KEEP MY PROMISE- YA RAT!
Oooo
BANG

LET HIM HAVE IT, BOYS!
UGH!
BANG
BANG
BANG

THEN THE SINEWY FIGURE OF THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE SPRINGS LITHELY ONTO THE SCENE!...
SEEMS I GOT HERE LATE AGAIN!

YOU WEREN'T THINKING OF USING THAT GUN ON ME, WERE YOU?
CRUNCH
OOMP!
GENTLEMEN... BE SEATED!
UNNK!
OOPH!
ONE OF THE FALLEN THUGS ROLLS UP TO THE HOOD, UNSEEN, AND....
GOTCHA, NOW!
WHA...
YOU GOT SOMETHING, BROTHER! BUT IT ISN'T GOOD!
UGH
GO OVER, AND PERSUADE YOUR FRIEND TO STAY, WILL YOU?
THIS IS THE PLACE ALL THAT SHOOTING CAME FROM ALL RIGHT!
BANG
POW
SOCK
WHAT GIVES HERE?..
WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE GENTLEMEN IN BLUE!
STAND WHERE YOU ARE, HOOD, OR I'LL SHOOT!
WHERE HAVE I HEARD THOSE WORDS BEFORE?
HEY, MIKE! IT'S BUGS! HE'S DEAD!
5

YEAH, AND SO'S HIS TWIN BROTHER, THE GOON, WHO JUST BUSTED OUTTA THE BIG HOUSE.! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS, HOOD?
WHY, I'M THE FELLOW WHO HELPED HIM ESCAPE, OF COURSE! THAT'S OBVIOUS!
WISE GUY, HUH.! WELL I AIN'T SO SURE YA DIDN'T AT THAT!... CALL FOR A WAGON, MIKE.! I'LL TAKE THE HOOD INTO TOW, PERSONALLY.!
WELL, NICE SEEING YOU AGAIN, MCGINTY.!
HOOD.! HOW'D YOU GET HIM, CLANCY? WHAT'S THE CHARGE?
JUST MIXED UP IN A GUN FIGHT IN WHICH THE GOON AND BUGS STRECCHI WERE KILLED.! THAT'S ALL.!
NICE GOIN, CLANCY.! WE GOT HIM COLD NOW.!
MCGINTY, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GRADUATE AND BECOME A HALF-WIT? I DIDN'T KILL THEM... NO MORE THAN I DID DUTCH GORDON!
OH, SO YOU KNOW ABOUT DUTCH GETTIN' KNOCKED OFF TOO.!
MCGINTY, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE HOOD A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN? HE'S ALWAYS SHOWING YOU UP FOR A DOPE WHEN YOU TRY TO PIN A CHARGE ON HIM.!
YOU KEEP OUTTA THIS, BABS.! I'LL HANDLE THIS MY OWN WAY.!
THE HOOD TELLS OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE KILLINGS - BUT TO NO AVAIL.
LOCK HIM UP.!
LOOK, MCGINTY, IF YOU DON'T LOOK INTO THE HOOD'S STORY AND GO TO THAT HOUSE HE SAW THOSE GANGSTERS COME OUT OF, I'LL GIVE YOU A WRITE-UP IN MY PAPER YOU WON'T LIKE.!
EASY NOW, BARBARA.! I'M A FAIR GUY, YA KNOW.!
6

WE'LL GO THERE, RIGHT NOW!
AND I'LL GO ALONG!

HERE'S THE PLACE!- HEY, IT'S AN ASTROLOGER'S JOINT!
ASTROLOGER
YOUR FATE READING

YOUR FATE READING
YOU KEEP GUARD OUTSIDE, I'M GOIN' IN!

WELCOME TO MY DOMAIN!

I AIN'T GONNA WASTE ANY WORDS WITH YOU! WHAT WERE BUGS STRECCHI AND DUTCH GORDON, THE GANGSTERS DOIN' IN YOUR JOINT? AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEIR DEATHS?
GANGSTERS! DEATHS?

BUT MY DEAR SIR, CAN I HELP IT IF GANGSTERS CHOOSE TO SEEK MY SERVICES? I DO NOT ASK MY CLIENTS THEIR OCCUPATIONS. SURELY, I AM NOT TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE... ER.. GANG FIGHTS!
HMM... I SUPPOSE NOT!

AH, I SEE YOU ARE A MAN OF MUCH INTELLIGENCE! ALLOW ME TO READ YOUR FORTUNE IN THE STARS!
B.. BUT WAIT..

HEY, BARBARA, THAT GUY SURE KNOWS HIS ONIONS! HE TOLD ME I WUZ BORN UNDER THE ZODIACAL SIGN OF ARIES, WHATEVER THAT IS!
ARIES, EH! THAT'S A SIGN OF A RAM OR A GOAT! MAYBE HE MEANS YOU LOOK LIKE ONE!

AS BARBARA AND McGINTY RETURN TO THE JAILHOUSE....

PROPHETIC, ISN'T IT? THE BLACK HOOD DIES UNDER THE SIGN OF THE SCORPION. WELL, I, SCORPIO, SHALL SEE TO IT THAT THE PROPHECY IS BORNE OUT.!
HOW'RE YA GONNA FIND HIM?

THIS GIRL REPORTER, BARBARA SUTTON. SHE'S QUITE FRIENDLY WITH THE HOOD, I UNDERSTAND. SHE SHALL LEAD ME TO HIM.! WAIT HERE. I SHAN'T BE LONG.!
THE HOOD'S PRETTY TRICKY.! I WARN YA.!

LATER BABS LEAVES THE OFFICE...

SEE THE STARS, MISS.! TEN CENTS A LOOK.!
SORRY, I HAVE NO TIME.!

OH, COME NOW, IT WON'T TAKE BUT A SECOND.. AND THIS TIME, THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE.!
SAY, YOU'RE A QUEER SIDEWALK ASTROLOGER. YOU'LL NEVER MAKE A LIVING GIVING AWAY FREE PEEKS.!

BARBARA LOOKS INTO THE TELESCOPE AND SEES...
THE STARS READ DEATH FOR THE BLACK HOOD, UNDER THE SIGN OF THE SCORPION.!

GOOD GRIEF.! WHAT'S THE MEANING?... WHY, HE'S GONE.! I MUST TELL THE HOOD ABOUT THIS IMMEDIATELY.!

BABS ARRIVES AT THE HOME OF THE HOOD.!...
STRANGE.! I SEEM TO HAVE A FEELING OF BEING FOLLOWED.!

HOOD! THE QUEEREST THING JUST HAPPENED!
WHY, HELLO BABS! IT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY QUEER TO HAVE UPSET YOU SO!

AND THEN WHEN I LOOKED INTO THE TELESCOPE, I SAW THAT MESSAGE... DO YOU THINK IT'S SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF A JOKE?
IF IT IS, THE JOKER CERTAINLY HAS A GRIM SENSE OF HUMOR!

I'M MORE INCLINED TO THINK THAT SOMEONE IS ACTUALLY STALKING ME AND USED THIS CLEVER RUSE TO HAVE YOU LEAD HIM TO MY WHEREABOUTS!

WHILE AT THAT MOMENT, WITH A BLOWPIPE CONTAINING A DART DIPPED IN SCORPION POISON, POISED ON HIS LIPS, SCORPIO IS ABOUT TO STRIKE...
NOW GO ON HOME AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!

AS BARBARA OPENS HER COMPACT TO POWDER HER NOSE, SHE SEES FRAMED IN HER MIRROR...

EEEK! HOOD, LOOK OUT!
ZIP
GREAT SCOT!

LUCKY THING BABS WARNED ME IN TIME!

THERE HE GOES!

AND HERE I GO!
THUMP

NOW, BROTHER, I'LL TAKE OVER FROM HERE!
POW

BUT SCORPIO REGAINS HIS FEET WITH REMARKABLE AGILITY AND BEFORE THE HOOD CAN SIDE-STEP HIS MADDENED CHARGE....

HOOD! WATCH OUT! EEE!
BOO

GREAT SAINTS! THAT GUY'S GOIN' RIGHT UNDER ME TRUCK AND I CAN'T STOP IT IN TIME!

SCREECH
SCREECH
BUT, AS THE TRUCK THUNDERS DOWN ON THE HOOD'S PROSTRATE FIGURE, THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE TWISTS DESPERATELY, AND....

HOOD! THANK HEAVENS! I THOUGHT YOU'D SURELY BE KILLED!
SO DID I FOR A SECOND!

THAT GUY IS THE ASTROLOGER YOU AND McGINTY WENT TO SEE. I'M GOING AFTER HIM! YOU GET McGINTY, BABS!
ALL RIGHT, HOOD!

GREETINGS, MY FRIENDS. I TOLD YOU I WOULD NOT BE GONE LONG!
YOU MEAN YA REALLY GOT THE HOOD!

I AM NOT IN THE HABIT OF MAKING IDLE BOASTS... AND NOW WITH OUR WAY CLEAR, WE CAN REALLY GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, EH?

OURS WILL BE THE MOST HIGHLY ORGANIZED BAND OF CRIMINALS IN THE WORLD! IMMEASURABLE LOOT AWAITS US! I SEE IT IN THE STARS!

WELL, LOOK AGAIN!
THE BLACK HOOD!
YOU... YOU'RE ALIVE!

ALIVE AND KICKING!
UGH!
OOMPH!
OONK!

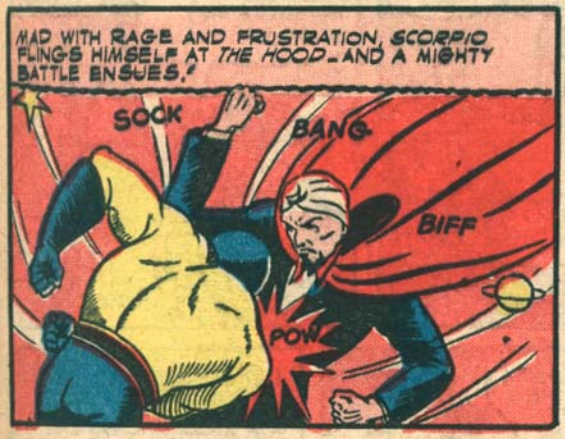
LIKE THIS!
CLUMP!

LET THOSE FOOLS BATTER THEIR BRAINS OUT WITH THAT ACCURSED HOOD! OUR PATHS SHALL CROSS ANOTHER TIME, AND THEN...

WELL! SEEMS LIKE THE GREAT CRIMINAL ORGANIZER IS A LITTLE DISORGANIZED HIMSELF!

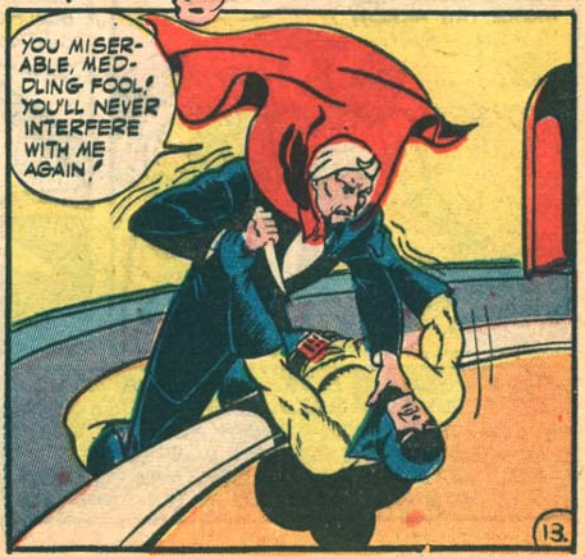
HE'S MAKING FOR THE BALCONY... SO I'LL HEAD HIM OFF THIS WAY!

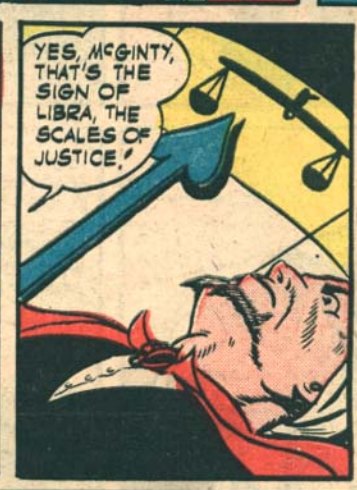
WEREN'T THINKING OF LEAVING WITHOUT A GOODBYE, WERE YOU?


MAD WITH RAGE AND FRUSTRATION, SCORPIO FLINGS HIMSELF AT THE HOOD—AND A MIGHTY BATTLE ENSUES!
SOCK
BANG
BIFF
POW

OOF!
THUMP

HE'S STUNNED! NOW, I'LL SLASH HIS HEART OUT!


YOU MISERABLE, MEDDLING FOOL! YOU'LL NEVER INTERFERE WITH ME AGAIN!



AND SO, SCORPIO, THE ASTROLOGER OF DEATH, DIES AS HE LIVED— BY THE PROPHECY OF THE STARS!

BUT THERE IS ONE PROPHECY THAT NEED NOT BE READ IN THE STARS... AND THAT IS, THAT EVERY-TIME YOU READ A **BLACK HOOD** ADVENTURE, YOU'RE SURE TO READ A YARN YOU'LL REMEMBER FOR A LONG TIME TO COME! RESERVE YOUR NEXT COPY OF **TOP NOTCH COMICS** NOW!!

IT'S **BIGGER** AND **BETTER** THAN EVER! WE MEAN THE LATEST ISSUE OF **HOODED DETECTIVE MAGAZINE**, OF COURSE—ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTANDS **RIGHT NOW!** A COMPLETE, BOOK-LENGTH NOVEL IN WHICH THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE MEETS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF HIS SPECTACULAR CAREER—AND HOW HE MEETS IT, THIS IS WHAT **HOODED DETECTIVE MAGAZINE** HOLDS IN STORE FOR YOU. ALSO, OTHER HAIR-RAISING MYSTERY THRILLERS IN THE SAME ISSUE. AND ALL FOR 10¢!!

THE WIZARD

WITH ROY, THE SUPER-BOY

AN ELDERLY STORE KEEPER IS PREPARING TO SHUT DOWN FOR THE NIGHT. SUDDENLY HIS DOOR IS THROWN OPEN AND A BAND OF HOODLUMS ENTER. IMMEDIATELY THEY SET UPON THE OLD MAN AND PROCEED TO BEAT HIM UNMERCIFULLY AND WRECK HIS SHOP?...

A RAPID CHANGE AND THE WIZARD AND ROY, THE SUPERBOY ARE READY FOR ACTION!...
THIS MAY BE OUR CHANCE TO REALLY BREAK THINGS UP, ROY!
AS THE WIZARD AND ROY ARRIVE ON THE SCENE...
C'MON, WE'RE FINISHED! LET'S BEAT IT BEFORE THE COPS GET HERE!
AFTER THEM, ROY! DON'T LET THOSE MURDERING FIENDS GET AWAY!
SORRY TO DETAIN YOU, OLD BOY!
DON'T GO AWAY, BOYS, I WANT YOU TO TEACH ME HOW TO BEAT OLD MEN AND CHILDREN!
MAYBE YOU CAN MAKE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT RUNNING OFF LIKE THAT!
JUPITER! THE STORE'S ON FIRE, AND THE PROPRIETOR'S STILL INSIDE!
TAKE CARE OF THESE FELLOWS, ROY! I'M GOING IN AFTER HIM!
DASHING INTO THE SMOKE FILLED SHOP, THE WIZARD SEES THE OLD MAN LYING ON THE FLOOR, UNCONSCIOUS!...

ANOTHER MINUTE AND HE'D HAVE BEEN WELL TOASTED!

OUTSIDE
POOR FELLOW, HE'S IN A BAD WAY! I DON'T SUPPOSE HE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL US ANYTHING FOR A WHILE!

HERE COME THE POLICE!

LET'S BEAT IT, ROY! THEY CAN HANDLE THINGS NOW! THERE'S NOTHING MORE FOR US TO DO!

THE NEXT DAY, BLANE WHITNEY AND ROY ENTER THE CITY HOSPITAL...
I'D LIKE TO SEE MR. SCHULTZ, PLEASE!
HE'S IN ROOM 407.

MR. SCHULTZ, I'M BLANE WHITNEY, PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY CHRONICLE. I'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE REIGN OF TERROR WHICH YOU WERE A VICTIM OF. I'M SURE THAT WITH YOUR HELP, I'D BE ABLE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS!
I'D BE GLAD TO HELP YOU SIR!

IT'S THE WORK OF THE NAZI BUND. I'M A GERMAN AND EVEN THOUGH I'M A LOYAL AMERICAN CITIZEN, THEY HAVE BEEN HOUNDING ME AND ALL THE OTHER GERMANS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! THEY WANT US TO JOIN THE BUND AND ARE ASKING US TO CONTRIBUTE LARGE SUMS OF MONEY!

WHEN I REFUSED TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THEM, THEY BEAT ME! I WENT TO THE POLICE BUT THEY COULDN'T HELP ME BECAUSE THEY HAD NO LEGAL PROOF OF THE BUND'S PART IN THESE AFFAIRS!

THOSE COWARDLY RATS! IT'S HIGH TIME SOMEBODY CLAMPED DOWN ON THEM!

AS THEY LEAVE THE HOSPITAL—
I THINK THE WIZARD HAD BETTER GO DOWN AND HAVE A TALK WITH THE LEADER OF THAT BUND?... AND SEE WHAT MAKES THEM TICK!
ANOTHER LIGHTNING-LIKE CHANGE AND THE WIZARD AND BOY, THE SUPERBOY ARE ON THEIR WAY....
WE'LL TOSS A MONKEY WRENCH INTO THEIR MACHINERY!
THEY ARRIVE AT BUND HEAD-QUARTERS....
VERE DO YOU TINK YOU'RE GOING? NO OUTSIDERS ARE ALLOWED!
VAT ISS DISS, A MASQUERADE?
LOOKS THAT WAY WITH ALL YOU PUPPETS IN THOSE UNIFORMS!
HAPPY LANDING!
UGH!
LET'S SEE WHAT'S BEHIND THESE DOORS!
THERE'S THE ONE WE WANT!
WAS IST!
LOOK, YOU MOUSTACHED FRANKFURTER, I CAME HERE TO WARN YOU ABOUT YOUR HEALTH!

MY HEALTH? THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH IT!
NOT YET.... BUT THERE WILL BE IF I CATCH YOUR GANG AT ANY MORE TRICKS... EVENTUALLY, THE LAW WILL CATCH UP WITH YOU HOODLUMS!

BUT UNTIL IT DOES, YOU'LL HAVE ME TO RECKON WITH!
DID YOU DROP YOUR PEN, FRITZIE?

AS THE LEADER BENDS TO RETRIEVE HIS PEN, ROY SILENTLY OPENS THE DESK DRAWER!
WATCH THIS WIZARD! IT'S GONNA BE GOOD!

HA, HA! AND YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A SMART GUY!
HO, HO, HO!
OOF!

ON THE WAY HOME...
IT'S TOO BAD OUR HANDS ARE TIED LEGALLY, ROY, I'D REALLY LIKE TO BREAK THAT CROWD UP! OH WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL GET ALONG HOME!

I'LL SEE YOU LATER, BLANE! I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO BEFORE I GO HOME!
ALRIGHT! SOLONG!

AS ROY WALKS OFF DOWN THE STREET, HE COMES UPON AN OUTDOOR MEETING...
AND SO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
WONDER WHAT HE'S SPOUTIN' ABOUT?

IT'S YOUR DUTY AS AMERICANS TO SUPPORT THE SALE OF BONDS WHICH...
A PATRIOTIC RALLY, EH?

SAY! THIS GIVES ME AN IDEA! IT'S JUST POSSIBLE THERE ARE A FEW BUNDSTERS MINGLED IN THIS CROWD, AND IF THERE ARE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET IN SOLID WITH THEM AND POSSIBLY LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE BEATINGS!

SAVE THAT STUFF! IT MAKES GOOD FAIRY STORIES!

CAN THAT STEAM!
LISTEN TO THAT BOY, HEINRICH!
YAH! HE'S ALRIGHT!

AS ROY LEAVES, THE TWO MEN FOLLOW HIM..
AW NUTS! I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO ANYMORE OF THAT!

THEY OVERTAKE HIM
THAT'S A FINE WAY FOR AN AMERICAN BOY TO ACT! HAVE YOU NO LOVE FOR YOUR COUNTRY?
NUTS! WHAT DID MY COUNTRY EVER DO FOR ME? THE ONLY WAY TO GET ALONG IS TO BE TOUGH AND TAKE WHAT'S COMING TO YOU!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN AN ORGANIZATION WHERE EVERYONE FEELS THE SAME WAY ABOUT THINGS?
GREAT!

SEE, THAT IS OUR YOUTH ORGANIZATION. SOON YOU'LL TAKE YOUR PLACE WITH THEM! SEE THOSE NICE UNIFORMS?

IN THE LEADER'S OFFICE...
HE IS A FINE BOY LEADER! HE WILL BE A WORTH-WHILE MEMBER!

FINE, FINE! WE ARE ALWAYS GLAD TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! TAKE HIM TO THE STOREHOUSE AND OUTFIT HIM!
THANK YOU, SIR!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LET THAT BOY INTO THE BUND WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, ARE YOU? WE'VE GOT TO BE VERY CAREFUL, YOU KNOW!
DON'T WORRY. I'LL TEST HIM MY OWN WAY!

THIS FITS YOU PERFECTLY! THE LEADER WILL BE VERY PLEASED WHEN HE SEES HOW WELL YOU LOOK!
THAT'S SWELL!

THEY ARE FINE BOYS! YOU SHOULD BE PROUD TO BECOME A MEMBER OF SUCH AN ORGANIZATION!

AN ORDERLY APPROACHES ROY...
THE LEADER WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU IN HIS OFFICE!
ME?

WONDER WHAT HE WANTS. I DON'T THINK HE SUSPECTS ANYTHING! I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL, THOUGH!

IN THE LEADER'S OFFICE...
OH, COME IN! I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT! I WAS JUST PUTTING THESE PAPERS IN THE WALL SAFE BACK HERE! GOT TO BE CAREFUL! NEVER KNOW WHO MIGHT BE A SPY!

WE CALLED YOU IN TO SEE IF YOU WERE OUTFITTED PROPERLY. YOU LOOK FINE! NOW YOU CAN GO JOIN THE REST OF THE BOYS!

PRIVATE PAPERS! HIDDEN SAFE... HM! I'LL HAVE TO GET A LOOK IN THERE, SOMEHOW!

THAT NIGHT
IT WAS EASY SNEAKING BACK HERE! THOSE GUYS ARE REALLY SOUND SLEEPERS!
NOW TO SEE IF I CAN CRACK THAT SAFE!
WHY, IT'S OPEN!.. AND IT'S EMPTY! I WONDER...
PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE, YOU LITTLE SNOOPER! WE JUST WANTED TO MAKE THINGS EASY FOR YOU, SO WE LEFT IT OPEN!
SO YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TRICK US; DID YOU? YOU TOOK US FOR A PACK OF FOOLS!
MOVE ALONG! WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW WE TREAT SPIES IN THIS BUND!
MEANWHILE, AT THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY CHRONICLE.....
WHERE'S ROY, BLANE? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM ALL DAY!
OH, HE'LL TURN UP SOON. HE'S PROBABLY OUT WITH SOME OF HIS FRIENDS!
SUDDENLY
I'VE GOT THE STRANGEST FEELING! ROY MUST HAVE GOTTEN INTO TROUBLE SOMEWHERE! I'D BETTER CALL UP A VISION!

HOLY SMOKES! HE'S REALLY GOTTEN INTO SOMETHING THIS TIME!
SLIPPING INTO THE NEXT ROOM, BLANE BECOMES THE WIZARD AND DASHES OFF TO SAVE ROY!
I'M GOING TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU! NO ONE ELSE WILL EVER DOUBLE-CROSS ME AGAIN AFTER WHAT YOU GET!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME, HOT-SHOT!
JUST THEN
HOLD EVERYTHING, FRITZIE! YOU CAN'T START WITHOUT ME!
COME ON, ROY! GRAB A PARTNER AND JOIN IN THE FUN!
YOU BET!
IN THE CONFUSION, THE LEADER SLIPS OUT!...
I'D BETTER GET RID OF THOSE PAPERS BEFORE THEY'RE DIS-COVERED!
I THOUGHT YOU FELLOWS WERE TOUGH!
THESE GUYS DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANYMORE! LET'S GO GET THE BIG NOISE OF THE OUTFIT, BEFORE HE GETS TOO FAR OFF!

GRAB HIM BEFORE HE GETS RID OF THOSE PAPERS!
HE BELONGS TO ME, WIZARD!

I'LL SET HIM UP FOR YOU, ROY!

OKAY, DO YOUR STUFF!
WATCH ME!

SOME FORM, EH, WIZARD?
PERFECT KICK!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE SCORED A FIELD GOAL!

WOW! NO WONDER HE WANTED TO GET RID OF THESE PAPERS! THEY'RE DYNAMITE! THEY'LL BLOW THE LID RIGHT OFF THIS BUND!

NEXT MORNING...
DAILY CHRONI
WIZARD UNCOVERS BUND FRAUD
DISCOVERS THAT LEADER IS USING BUND FUNDS FOR PERSONAL USE.

ALL OVER TOWN
VAT FOOLS VE VERE!
I'LL NEVER BE LED INTO ONE OF THOSE THINGS AGAIN!
FROM NOW ON, I'M STICKING TO HONEST AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS!

WELL, MR. BLANE WHITNEY, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE LOOKING SO SMUG BECAUSE YOU FINALLY GOT A SCOOP WITHOUT ME! REMEMBER THOUGH, YOU'VE GOT THE WIZARD TO THANK FOR IT!

FRAN-FRAZER

THE ONLY OBSTACLE STANDING IN THE WAY OF OUR SUCCESSFUL COUP D' ETAT IS KHERMAN. HE MUST BE PUT OUT OF THE WAY!
IRAN, HOME OF RICH OIL LANDS, AND ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING NEUTRAL NATIONS IN THIS WAR TORN WORLD. RAPIDLY IT HAS BECOME A HOT BED OF INTRIGUE, AND A MEETING PLACE FOR PLOTTERS. IN THE LARGE CITY OF TEHERAN, THE FOLLOWING SCENE IS BEING ENACTED...
AT THE OFFICE OF PREMIER KHERMAN, FRAN FRAZER AND HAL DAVIS, AMERICAN NEWS CORRESPONDENTS ARE TRYING TO GET AN INTERVIEW...
BUT WE'VE GOT TO SEE HIM!
I'M SORRY. MY ORDERS ARE TO LET NO ONE IN!
AW NUTS! WE'LL NEVER GET TO SEE THAT GUY!
DONT WORRY! WE'LL GET IN SOMEHOW!
WAIT A MINUTE, HAL!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I HAVE A HUNCH WE'RE GOING TO GET THAT INTERVIEW AFTER ALL!
HOW?

LATER IN A COSTUMER'S SHOP...
IMAGINE ME, BEIN'A MESSENGER BOY! AND AT MY AGE.
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE, HAL!
I STILL DON'T LIKE THIS!
GO BACK TO KHERMAN'S OFFICE, AND GET RID OF THAT SECRETARY SO I CAN TAKE HER PLACE!
WHAT'S THAT? AN URGENT MESSAGE FOR ME?
OH, THIS IS TERRIBLE! I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE AT ONCE!
BOY, THAT DID IT, ALL RIGHT!
THE REST IS UP TO ME!
OH OH, THERE'S THE BUZZER! I HOPE I CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS!
FRAN PICKS UP A NOTE-BOOK AND ENTERS THE INNER OFFICE

TAKE THIS LETTER, MISS!
SUDDENLY, THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN...
STAND WHERE YOU ARE, KHERMAN!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? WHO ARE YOU?
SIT IN THAT CHAIR AND DON'T MAKE A MOVE.
DON'T CALL FOR HELP OR IT WILL BE TOO BAD FOR YOU!
YOU'RE GOING TO SIGN A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH US, GIVING OUR COUNTRY ACCESS TO YOUR OILFIELDS.
YOU'RE MAD! I'LL NEVER DO THAT!
MEANWHILE, FRAN TAKES PICTURES OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WITH A TINY POWERFUL CAMERA, CONCEALED IN HER BELT BUCKLE...
SUDDENLY
THAT SUN! IT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
UNSCREWING HER CAMERA LENS, FRAN HOLDS IT IN THE SUN'S RAYS, SENDING REFLECTIONS DOWN INTO THE STREET!
MEANWHILE...
SHE'S BEEN GONE A LONG WHILE. I WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING HER??
WONDER WHAT THAT GLARE IS COMING OUT OF KHERMAN'S WINDOW?

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF SIGNAL!

IT IS A SIGNAL! IT'S AN S.O.S. FRAN'S IN TROUBLE. I'D BETTER GET HELP AND GET UP THERE!

UP IN THE OFFICE...
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SIGN!
I'LL NEVER DO IT!

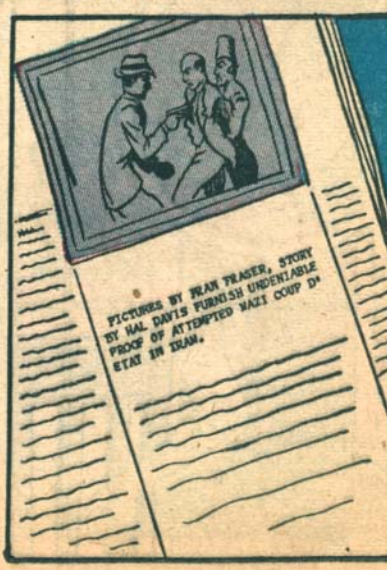
JUST THEN HAL COMES RUSHING IN WITH HELP...

SEEING THE POLICEMEN, THE GUNMEN DROP THEIR GUNS AND RUN!...

I'M SORRY! THEY GOT AWAY FROM US!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I'VE GOT PICTURES OF THEM. THEY WON'T BE SO HARD TO IDENTIFY AFTER WE'VE DEVELOPED THE FILM!

NEXT DAY...
WELL, IT LOOKS GOOD TO HAVE MY NAME ON A SCOOP ONCE IN A WHILE!
YEAH, BUT I SEE WHERE I GOT TOP BILLING ANYHOW!
NEWS WEEK
STRI


PICTURES BY FRAN FRASER, STORY BY HAL DAVIS FURNISH UNDENIABLE PROOF OF ATTEMPTED NAZI COUP D' ETAT IN IRAN.

KEITH KORNELL WESTPOINTER

Kinn

KEITH KORNELL AND HIS MEN OF THE COMBAT ENGINEERS ARE ON THEIR WAY BACK TO THEIR CAMP IN AN ARMY TRUCK. THE TRUCK PASSES A GOLF COURSE, AND—

LOOK, GIRLS! SOLDIERS! AREN'T THEY CUTE?

LISTEN TO THEM YELLING! MAKES ME FEEL GOOD TO SEE THEM HAVING SO MUCH FUN!

YOO HOO!

YOO HOO!

HI YA, BABE!

BUT AS THE TRUCK ROLLS ON, A STAFF CAR PULLS UP AND AN OFFICER STEPS OUT...

JUST A MINUTE, SOLDIERS! WHO'S IN COMMAND THERE? STEP OUT HERE!

LIEUTENANT KORNELL, EH? WELL, I WON'T TOLERATE LACK OF DISCIPLINE IN MY ARMY! AS PUNISHMENT FOR ANNOYING THOSE GIRLS, YOU WILL TAKE YOUR TRUCK LOAD OF ENGINEERS TO THE WOODEN BRIDGE ON THE RIVER, AND MARCH THEM BACK AND FORTH OVER THAT BRIDGE UNTIL SUNDOWN!

YES SIR!

I GUESS THAT'LL TEACH THEM A LESSON! IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T TOLERATE, IT'S FRIVOLITY AMONG THE MEN IN THE RANKS! DRIVE ME HOME, SERGEANT!

WHAT A LIFE! NOW IT'S RAININ'!
THAT GENERAL RAEL BURNS ME UP!
HE'S A PRETTY TOUGH GUY, ALRIGHT

THE TRUCK ROLLS ON TOWARD THE BRIDGE.

AND THE RISING RIVER THREATENS TO OVERFLOW THE BANKS.

BUT SUDDENLY- THE WOODEN BRIDGE COLLAPSES AND IS SWEPT ALONG IN FLOOD WATERS

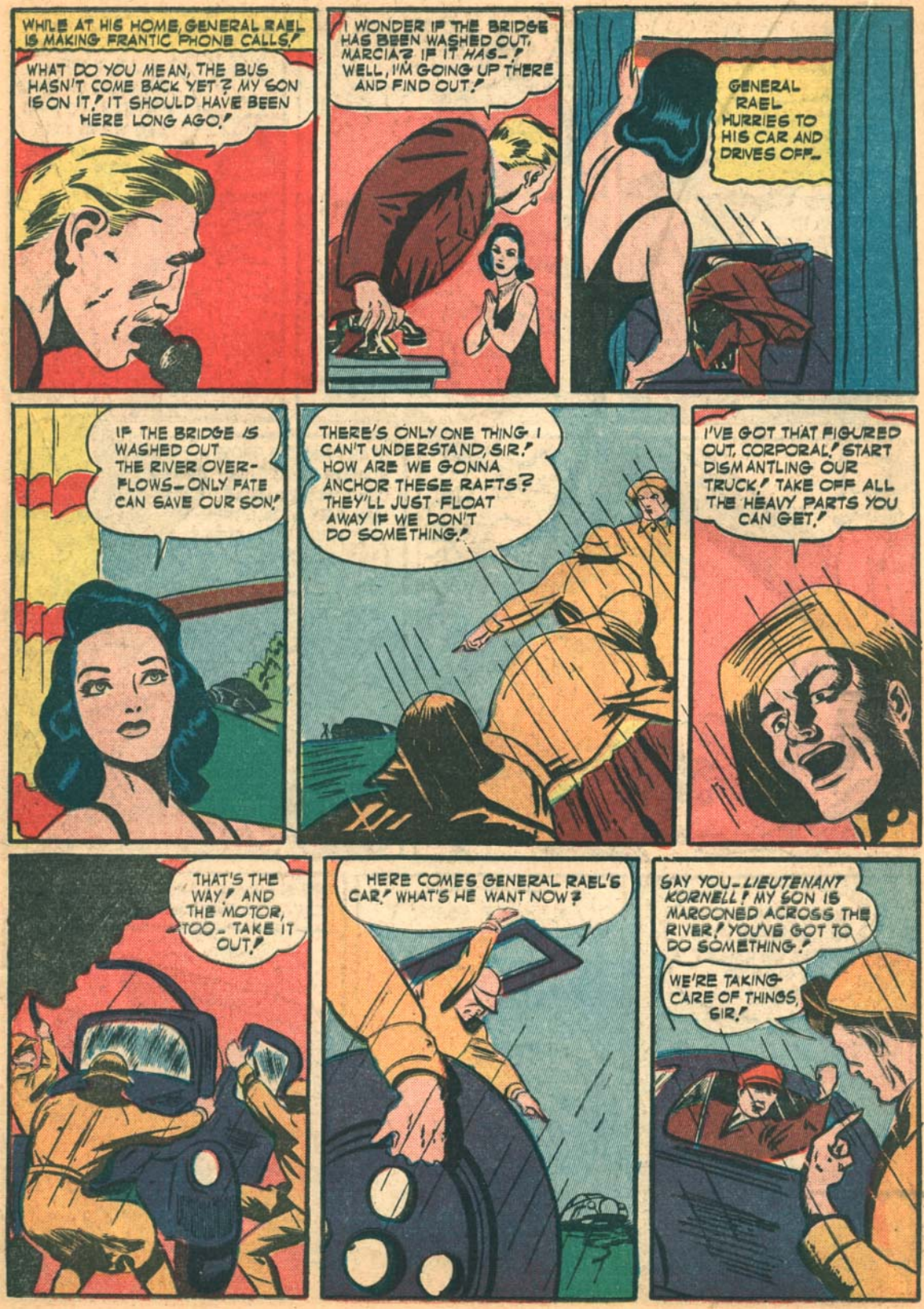
IN THE VALLEY, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, A SCHOOL BUS COMES TO A HALT.
GREAT CAESER! THE BRIDGE IS WRECKED! IF I DON'T GET THESE KIDS OUT OF THE VALLEY, THE RIVER WILL OVERFLOW AND DROWN THEM ALL!

KEITH KORNELL'S TRUCK ARRIVES AT THE SCENE OF THE WRECKAGE.

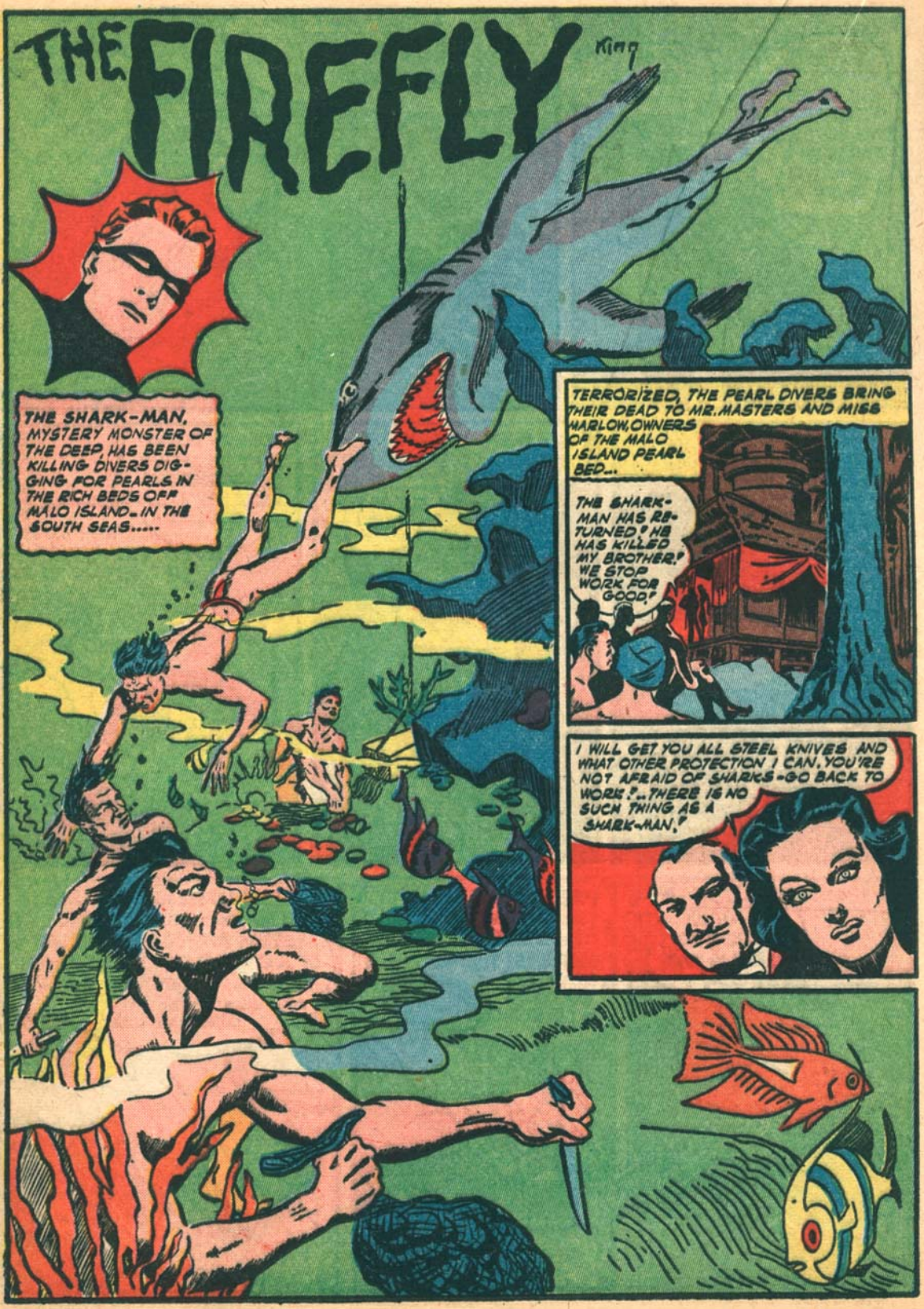
LOOK, MEN! THE BRIDGE IS GONE! AND WHAT'S THAT CAR OVER THERE? HOLY HANNAH! IT LOOKS LIKE A SCHOOL BUS!
THAT'S WHAT IT IS, LIEUTENANT! AND BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS, THIS RIVER IS GONNA OVERFLOW ANY MINUTE!

YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO--- AND THAT'S TO BUILD SOME KIND OF BRIDGE AND GET THEM OVER TO THIS SIDE WHICH IS HIGHER GROUND.

GET THOSE AXES AND HAMMERS OUT OF THE TRUCK! HURRY IT UP!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO LIEUTENANT?, CHOP YOUR WAY ACROSS THE RIVER.
NEVER MIND THE WISE CRACKS! FOLLOW ME UP THIS HILL!
SEE THAT OLD SHACK? WELL IT'S MADE OF WOOD ISN'T IT?, SO WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO TO WORK---DOUBLE TIME!
START NAILING THOSE BOARDS TO-GETHER! DON'T WORRY ABOUT HOW THEY LOOK, EITHER! JUST BE SURE THEY ARE GOOD AND SOLID!
OKAY, BOYS! DOWN TO THE RIVER WITH THEM! WE HAVEN'T ANY TIME TO LOSE!
ALL SET?, GOOD! WERE OFF!
THE ENGINEER CARRIES THE RAFTS TOWARDS THE BANK OF RIVER....


WHILE AT HIS HOME, GENERAL RAEL IS MAKING FRANTIC PHONE CALLS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THE BUS HASN'T COME BACK YET? MY SON IS ON IT! IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE LONG AGO!
I WONDER IF THE BRIDGE HAS BEEN WASHED OUT, MARCIA? IF IT HAS-! WELL, I'M GOING UP THERE AND FIND OUT!
GENERAL RAEL HURRIES TO HIS CAR AND DRIVES OFF-
IF THE BRIDGE IS WASHED OUT THE RIVER OVER-FLOWS-ONLY FATE CAN SAVE OUR SON!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN'T UNDERSTAND, SIR! HOW ARE WE GONNA ANCHOR THESE RAFTS? THEY'LL JUST FLOAT AWAY IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING!
I'VE GOT THAT FIGURED OUT, CORPORAL! START DISMANTLING OUR TRUCK! TAKE OFF ALL THE HEAVY PARTS YOU CAN GET!
THAT'S THE WAY! AND THE MOTOR, TOO-TAKE IT OUT!
HERE COMES GENERAL RAEL'S CAR! WHAT'S HE WANT NOW?
SAY YOU-LIEUTENANT KORNELL! MY SON IS MAROONED ACROSS THE RIVER! YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
WE'RE TAKING CARE OF THINGS, SIR!

OKAY, MEN! YOU HAVE THE AUTO PARTS ATTACHED TO THE RAFT WITH ROPES, EH? VERY WELL SHOVE OFF!
YES SIR! WE'RE ALL READY, SIR!
WHEN THE FARTHEST RAFT GETS ON THE OTHER SIDE, HE'LL DROP HIS ANCHOR! THAT'S THE SIGNAL FOR YOU OTHERS TO FOLLOW SUIT!
THE LINE OF RAFTS DRIFT OUT A-CROSS ---- AND REACH THE OTHER SIDE.
I'M DROPPING ANCHOR!
NICE WORK SOLDIERS!
EVERYTHING'S SET NOW. MISTER! GET THE KIDS OUT OF THE BUS!
COME ON. BOBBY! DON'T BE AFRAID, THESE SOLDIERS KNOW HOW TO BUILD BRIDGES!
I WISH YOU'D TELL MY DAD THAT. HE SAYS HIS MEN ARE THE DUMBEST SOLDIERS IN THE WORLD.
A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN THIS FIRST BOY HERE IS YOUR SON!
DAD! BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! AND YOU CAN'T KID ME ANY MORE, ABOUT YOUR SOLDIERS! THEY'RE THE SMARTEST SOLDIERS IN THE WORLD
I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO AGREE WITH MY SON, LIEUTENANT! THE AMERICAN BOYS DO AN AWFUL LOT OF JOKING AND CLOWNING, BUT WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN AND THE STAKES ARE HIGH --- THEY ALWAYS COME THROUGH!


THE FIREFLY
KING
THE SHARK-MAN, MYSTERY MONSTER OF THE DEEP, HAS BEEN KILLING DIVERS DIGGING FOR PEARLS IN THE RICH BEDS OFF MALO ISLAND - IN THE SOUTH SEAS.....
TERRORIZED, THE PEARL DIVERS BRING THEIR DEAD TO MR. MASTERS AND MISS MARLOW, OWNERS OF THE MALO ISLAND PEARL BED...
THE SHARK-MAN HAS RETURNED! HE HAS KILLED MY BROTHER! WE STOP WORK FOR GOOD!
I WILL GET YOU ALL STEEL KNIVES AND WHAT OTHER PROTECTION I CAN. YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF SHARKS - GO BACK TO WORK!... THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SHARK-MAN!

THE NEXT DAY, HARLEY HUDSON HAPPENS TO BE FISHING NEAR MALO ISLAND...
GREAT SCOT! A SHARK IS ATTACKING ONE OF THE NATIVES!
Chris-Craft
IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, HARLEY HUDSON BECOMES THE FIREFLY!
HE IS STILL ALIVE, POOR DEVIL - BUT WHERE IS THE SHARK?
FUNNY THAT SHARK DISAPPEARING JUST BECAUSE IT SAW ME COMING. SHARKS ARE NOT IN THE HABIT OF LETTING GO THEIR PREY. AND ALSO, WHERE IN THE WORLD DID IT DISAPPEAR TO SO QUICKLY?
HARLEY HUDSON HEADS FOR SHORE WITH THE MAIMED DIVER...
I BETTER GET SOME MEDICAL AID FOR THIS POOR NATIVE... AND DO A LITTLE INVESTIGATING!
HEY THERE FELLAS! GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS POOR DIVER, WILL YOU?
LOOK! IT IS KIWA, OUR LEADER!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY THE SHARK-MAN!
DID I HEAR YOU SAY SHARK-MAN? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SHARK-MAN ANCIENT ENEMY OF PEARL-DIVERS! WE THINK HIM NO MORE! BUT HIM COME BACK NOW AND KILL US!
I SAY THERE, WHAT'S UP NOW?
I'M HARLEY HUDSON. I JUST PULLED A NATIVE AWAY FROM SOMETHING THEY CALL A SHARK-MAN!
YES.. AND WHO ARE YOU?
HEAVENS, THIS IS THE THIRD ATTACK! THEY'LL NEVER DIVE FOR PEARLS FOR US AFTER THIS... HOWEVER, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP! I'M LINDA MARLOW. THIS IS MY PARTNER, MASTERS. WE OWN THIS ISLAND AND THESE ARE OUR PEARL DIVERS!
HOW DO YOU DO?

THAT NIGHT...
THERE IS MORE TO THIS SHARK-MAN SUPERSTITION THAN THAT GIRL REALIZES! I'VE GOT A LOT OF INVESTIGATING TO DO— WONDER WHERE THAT SHARK DISAPPEARED TO THIS AFTERNOON?
THIS IS ABOUT WHERE I LAST SAW THAT SHARK OR WHAT EVER IT WAS— GLAD THIS WATER IS SO CLEAR!
WHAT'S THIS? THAT'S THE STRANGEST CORAL FORMATION I EVER SAW!
SOUNDLESSLY, THE FIREFLY SLIPS INTO THE MYSTERIOUS TROPICAL WATERS!..
I'LL BE.. A CAVE OPENING!
THE PASSAGEWAY RISES RATHER STEEPLY! IT MUST LEAD SOMEWHERE ABOVE THE WATER.
GREAT JUPITER! I'M BACK TO THE HOUSES..I HEAR VOICES! I'LL DO A LITTLE EAVES-DROPPING NOW.
WELL, LOBROW, OUR SCHEME IS WORKING BEAUTIFULLY! THE DIVERS ARE SCARED TO GO DOWN ANYMORE! A FEW MORE APPEARANCES IN THAT SHARK GADGET OF YOURS, AND MISS MARLOW'LL BE GLAD TO SELL ME HER SHARE OF THIS ISLAND— AND AT MY PRICE AND YOU SHALL BE WELL REWARDED FOR YOUR WORK!
YES TUAN MASTERS!

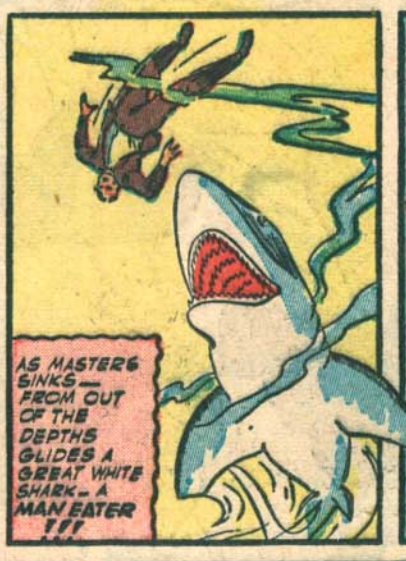
OVERHEARING THE PLAN, THE FIREFLY COMES UP THE TRAP DOOR TO BREAK IT UP- BUT A WICKED BLOW FROM BEHIND STUNS HIM!
TUANA! SEE? ME FIND THIS ONE LISTENING! ME FIX!
GOOD WORK, BONGA!
SO! THE FIREFLY HAS SOMEHOW COME ONTO MY LITTLE PLOT? THIS FORCES ME TO CHANGE MY PLANS A TRIFLE. WE SHAN'T FOOL WITH MISS MARLOW ANYMORE. GET INTO YOUR SHARK DISGUISE, LOBROW-- AND BE READY FOR HER WHEN SHE "ACCIDENTLY" FALLS INTO THE LAKE!
I'LL GO AFTER HER NOW! YOU FINISH THE FIREFLY OFF IMMEDIATELY, LOBROW!
ME DO, TUANA!
LOBROW IMMEDIATELY MAKES FOR THE FIREFLY, INTENT ON CARRYING OUT HIS MURDEROUS TASK!
THOUGHT I WAS OUT COLD, EH?
LOBROW IS FLUNG INTO THE RAZOR-LIKE TEETH OF THE FAKE SHARK- TO A HORRIBLE DEATH!
AARGHH!
NOW TO GET THESE ROPES LOOSE! THIS NAIL STICKING UP OUT OF THE PLANKING MAY DO THE TRICK!

MEANWHILE
SORRY TO DISTURB YOUR SLEEP, MISS MARLOW, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT— YOU MUST COME DOWN TO THE LAGOON WITH ME!
WHAT IS THE TROUBLE?
IT'S ABOUT THE SHARK-MAN— I THINK I CAN SHOW YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING—COME ON, WE'LL TAKE MY SPEEDBOAT!
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WE'RE GOING OUT TO THE PEARL BEDS WHERE ALL THE NATIVES HAVE BEEN ATTACKED!
AS THEY REACH THE PEARL BEDS, MASTERS STRIKES!
EEEE!
YES, MY DEAR, THIS IS WHERE THE SHARK-MAN ATTACKS HIS VICTIMS! BUT YOU'LL KNOW THAT SOON ENOUGH FOR YOURSELF!
BUT INSTEAD OF THE SHARK-MAN, THE FIREFLY DIVES OUT OF THE CAVE!
THERE'S A SPLASH... IT'S MISS MARLOW!
THANK GOD! I'M NOT TOO LATE!
WHAT A SURPRISE YOU'RE IN FOR, MASTERS!
WHEN THESE IGNORANT NATIVES FIND HER MANGLED BODY, THEY'LL SAY IT WAS THE SHARK-MAN, AND THE WHOLE INCIDENT WILL SOON BE FORGOTTEN!

YOU'VE GOT THE WHOLE THING NICELY FIGURED OUT, HAVEN'T YOU, MASTERS?
WHAT! YOU!

YOU COLD-BLOODED MURDERER! YOU'VE CLAIMED YOUR LAST VICTIM!
YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME SO EASILY, EH?

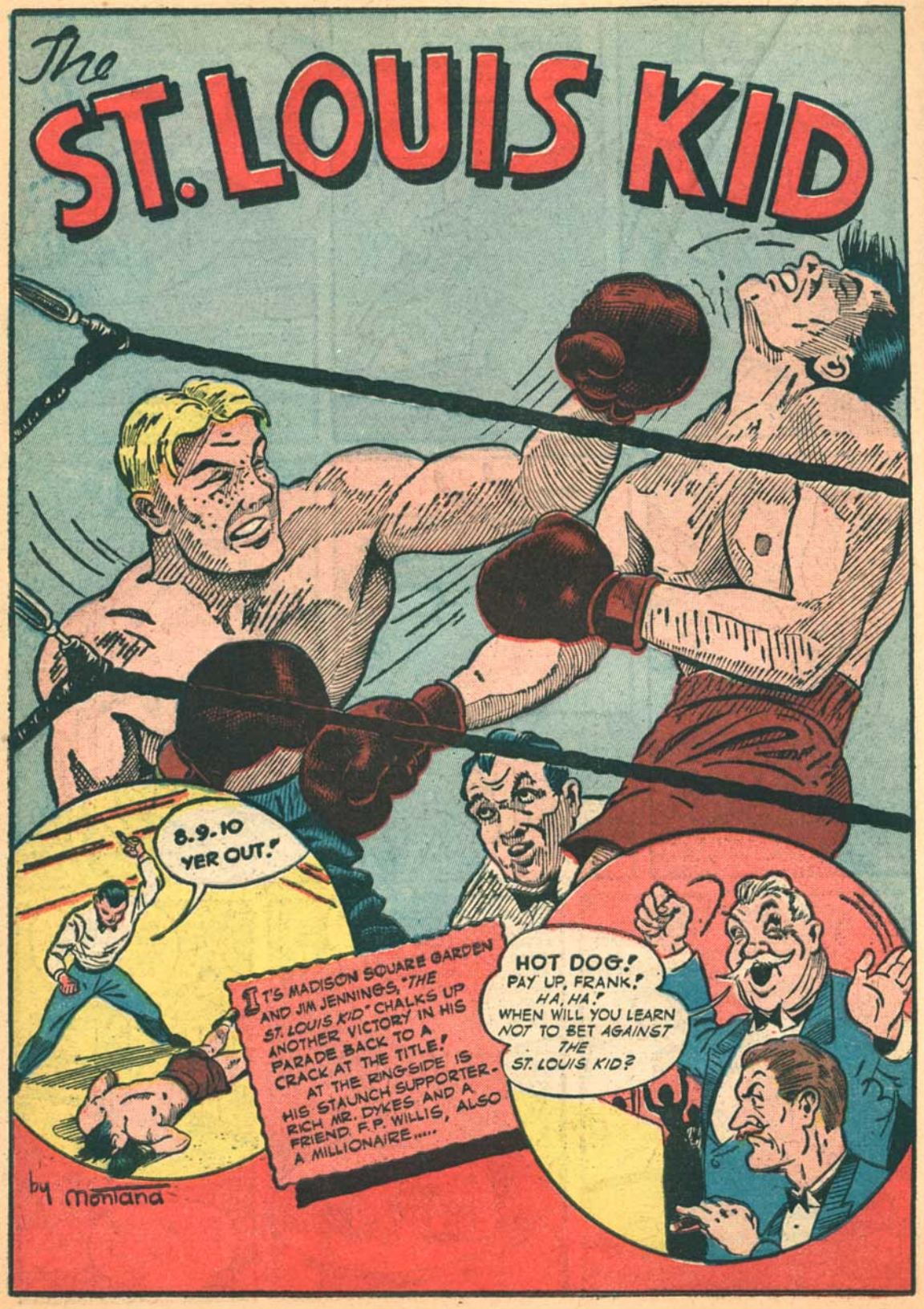
YEP!..AND NOW, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

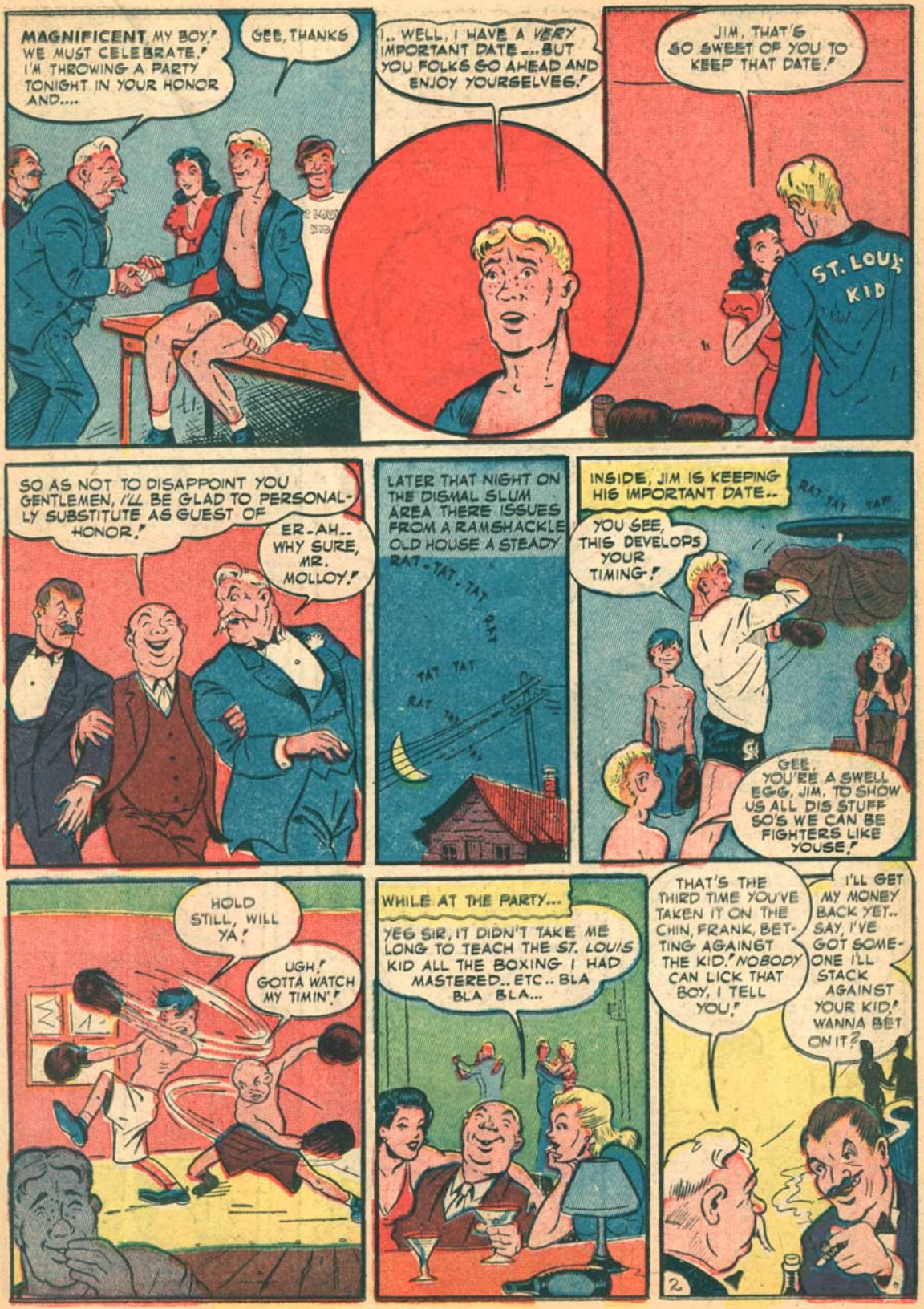

AS MASTERS SINKS... FROM OUT OF THE DEPTHS GLIDES A GREAT WHITE SHARK.. A MAN EATER !!!

UGH! I DIDN'T MEAN TO DEAL EVEN A KILLER LIKE MASTERS SUCH A FATE.. BUT HE DESERVED IT!
B..BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND."

IT'S SIMPLY THAT MASTERS REVIVED THAT SHARK-MAN LEGEND TO SCARE YOUR PEARL DIVERS AWAY AND MAKE THIS BUSINESS SO UNPROFITABLE, YOU WOULD BE FORCED TO SELL OUT TO HIM."
GOOD LORD! IT..IT'S ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE THAT ANYBODY COULD HAVE GONE TO SUCH INHUMAN LENGTHS."

THANKS, FOREVER, FOR SAVING MY LIFE AND MY BUSINESS!
GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK, MISS MARLOW!


The ST. LOUIS KID
8.9.10 YER OUT!
IT'S MADISON SQUARE GARDEN AND JIM JENNINGS, "THE ST. LOUIS KID" CHALKS UP ANOTHER VICTORY IN HIS PARADE BACK TO A CRACK AT THE TITLE! AT THE RING-SIDE IS HIS STAUNCH SUPPORTER - RICH MR. DYKES AND A FRIEND F.P. WILLIS, ALSO A MILLIONAIRE.....
HOT DOG! PAY UP, FRANK! HA, HA! WHEN WILL YOU LEARN NOT TO BET AGAINST THE ST. LOUIS KID?
by Moniana


MAGNIFICENT, MY BOY! WE MUST CELEBRATE! I'M THROWING A PARTY TONIGHT IN YOUR HONOR AND....
GEE, THANKS
..WELL, I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT DATE...BUT YOU FOLKS GO AHEAD AND ENJOY YOURSELVES!
JIM, THAT'S SO SWEET OF YOU TO KEEP THAT DATE!
ST. LOUIS KID
SO AS NOT TO DISAPPOINT YOU GENTLEMEN, I'LL BE GLAD TO PERSONALLY SUBSTITUTE AS GUEST OF HONOR!
ER-AH.. WHY SURE, MR. MOLLOY!
LATER THAT NIGHT ON THE DISMAL SLUM AREA THERE ISSUES FROM A RAMSHACKLE OLD HOUSE A STEADY
RAT-TAT-TAT
TAT TAT
RAT
INSIDE, JIM IS KEEPING HIS IMPORTANT DATE..
RAT TAT TAP
YOU SEE, THIS DEVELOPS YOUR TIMING!
GEE, YOU'EE A SWELL EGG, JIM. TO SHOW US ALL DIS STUFF SO'S WE CAN BE FIGHTERS LIKE YOUSE!
HOLD STILL, WILL YA!
UGH! GOTTA WATCH MY TIMIN'!
WHILE AT THE PARTY...
YEG SIR, IT DIDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO TEACH THE ST. LOUIS KID ALL THE BOXING I HAD MASTERED.. ETC.. BLA BLA BLA...
THAT'S THE THIRD TIME YOU'VE TAKEN IT ON THE CHIN, FRANK, BETTING AGAINST THE KID! NOBODY CAN LICK THAT BOY, I TELL YOU!
I'LL GET MY MONEY BACK YET.. SAY, I'VE GOT SOMEONE I'LL STACK AGAINST YOUR KID! WANNA BET ON IT?
2

MY FIGHTER'S NEVER EVEN BEEN IN A RING BEFORE... I KEEP HIM UP IN MY CAMP AT MAINE. I'M WILLING TO LAY A SMALL WAGER OF... SHALL WE SAY $000... THE KID DOESN'T LAST THREE ROUNDS WITH HIM!
FRANK, YOU SURPRISE ME! YOU REALLY DO! I ALWAYS TOOK YOU FOR A MUCH SMARTER MAN THAN THAT!

HOWEVER, IF YOU INSIST ON THROWING AWAY YOUR MONEY, WHO AM I TO LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH? IT'S A BET!.. AND I'M GOING TO GIVE MY WINNINGS TO THE ST. LOUIS KID. COME ON, LET'S GET THE KID AND WE'LL START RIGHT OUT.

WE'RE ALMOST THERE. I HAVEN'T USED THIS PLACE FOR SOME TIME.
HEY, TURN ON THE RADIO!

WARNING... TO ALL PRECINCTS. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A BLACK SEDAN HEADED NORTH TOWARD CARIBOU....
MY WORD! THAT'S NEAR US!

CAR CONTAINS KILLER "VICK GOUNO" AND GANG... THESE MEN ARE DANGEROUS... APPROACH WITH CAUTION! THAT IS ALL....
GEE, I'D HATE TO MEET THOSE PEOPLE!

HERE WE ARE!
GOSH, LOOKS AWFULLY DESERTED!

WONDER WHERE MY CARETAKER IS? WELL, ANYWAY, COME ON IN, FOLKS. I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY FIGHTER. BE PREPARED FOR A SURPRISE!

IN THIS CORNER- WEIGHING 300 POUNDS, THE CHALLENGER- "GIGANTIC"!
GOOD LORD!
WHAT IS...

R-R-O-A-R-R-R

IT'S PREPOSTEROUS! HOW COULD YOU EVEN THINK OF SUCH A THING?
WHY JIM WOULD BE KILLED!
AS THE ST. LOUIS KID'S PERSONAL ADVISER- I WON'T ALLOW IT!

ALRIGHT- ALRIGHT! I KNEW YOU'D BACK OUT - HEY, WHAT WAS THAT?

PLEASE EXCUSE THIS INTRUSION- BUT WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE?

THIS IS MY LODGE! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY CARE-TAKER-YOU.. YOU.. KILLER! YES, I KNOW YOU- VIC GOUNO!
THAT'S TOO BAD FOR YOU!

UNFORTUNATELY, I'M NOT LEAVING- AND NEITHER IS ANYONE ELSE! ANY FUNNY STUFF- AND... YOU WOULD NOT ENJOY THE FATE THIS CARETAKER MET!..... WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE!

WELL- ER.. AH... YOU SEE MR. GOUNO, WE CAME UP WITH THE ST. LOUIS KID... HE WUZ SUPPOSED TO FIGHT THAT GORILLA. IT WUZA GAG, A COURSE, BUT...
A GAG, EH?

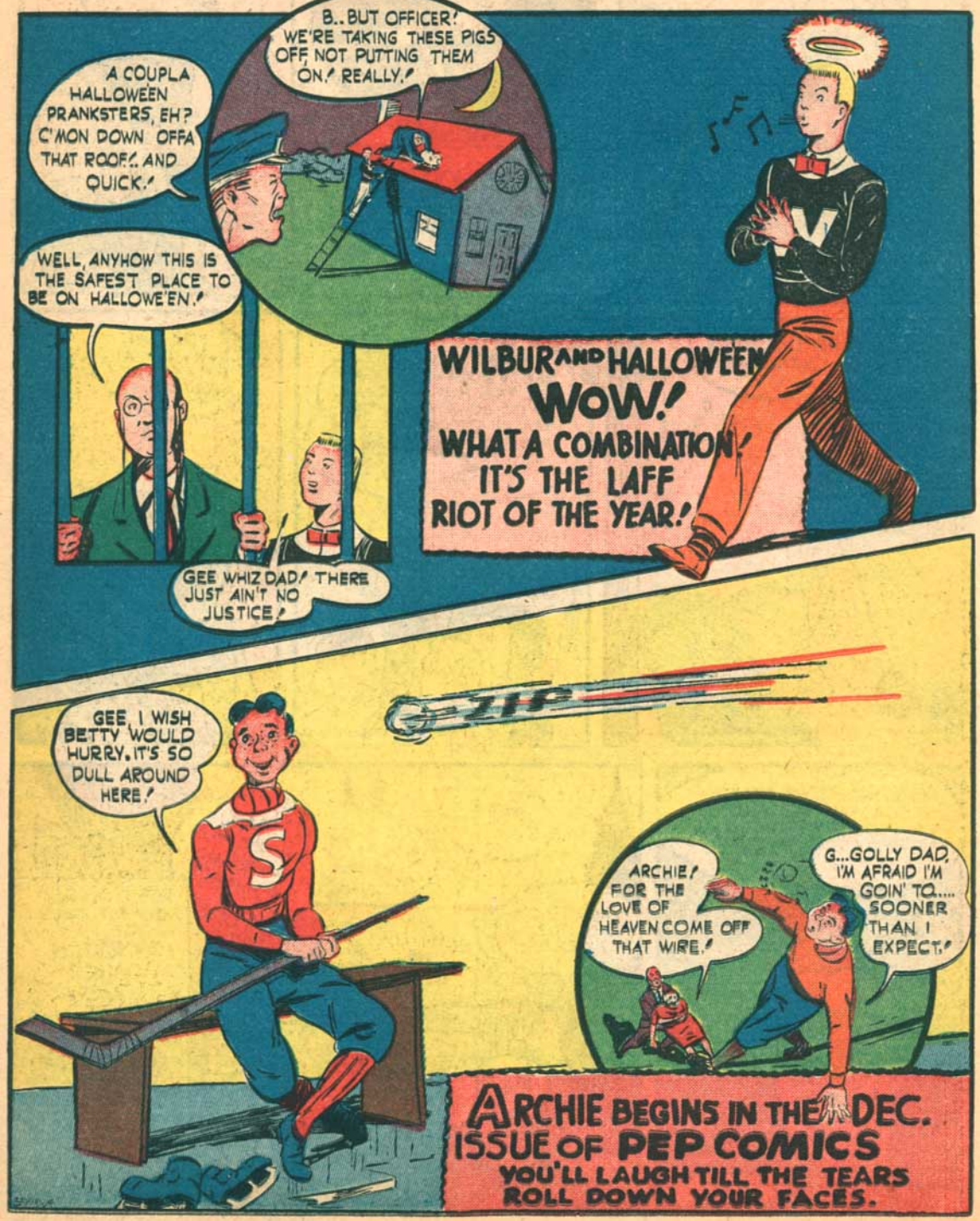
HEAR THAT, TONY? HEH-HEH! HE'S GONNA FIGHT THE GORILLA! SOME GAG, HUH!

I GOT A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR MYSELF! SEE, I LIKE GAGS! ESPECIALLY GOOD ONES! AND THIS IS A VERY GOOD ONE! SO GO ON AND FIGHT!
WHY YOU CHEAP, BULLY-IN' KILLER...

EASY KID, LET ME HANDLE THIS.! NOW LOOK HERE, GOUNO, THE WHOLE THINGS PREPOSTEROUS.! YOU CAN'T REALLY MEAN IT!
THIS TYPEWRITER SAYS I CAN.. AND DO, MAYBE YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF ME, KID, BUT YOUR FRIENDS ARE... 'N THEY GOT GOOD REASON TO BE, 'CAUSE I'D JUST AS SOON PLUG 'EM AS NOT.! NOW DO YOU FIGHT OR DON'T YOU?
WITH TOMMY GUNS TRAINED ON THEM THE TWO FIGHTERS ENTER THE RING IN THE STRANGEST FIGHT IN PUGILISTIC HISTORY... MAN VS. BEAST!
FEARLESSLY, THE ST. LOUIS KID WADES INTO HIS JUNGLE ADVERSARY....
...AND AFTER A FEW SOLID PUNCHES, THE MONK GETS INTO THE SPIRIT OF IT...
THEN A HAIR-RAISING BATTLE ENSUES.!...
BUT ALTHOUGH THE APE FIGHTS BACK FEROCIOUSLY, SCIENTIC BOXING TRIUMPHS OVER PRIMITIVE BRAWN!
THIS ST. LOUIS KID IS TERRIFIC.!
YEAH, DAT MONK SURE CAN TAKE IT, THOUGH.!
BUT JIM IS ALSO WATCHING GOUNO AND HIS HENCHMEN FOR AN OPENING...
THE "KID" HANGS ONE ON THE APE AND THE APE HANGS ON THE ROPES.!
HOLY COW.! WHAT A SOCK.!
I DIDN'T THINK HE COULD DO IT.!

IS YOUR FACE RED-OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY-A LITTLE PALE?
UGH!
THE GORILLA COMES TO...
BUT A STRANGE REACTION HAS TAKEN PLACE... THE ANGER AND FIGHT THE GORILLA HAS FELT HAS GIVEN WAY TO DEEP RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE ST. LOUIS KID!
HALP!
I'LL JUST HANG THIS SOCK ON YOU 'TILL CHRISTMAS!
AND LATER
GREAT WORK, JIM! SAY, I'M SORRY I CAUSED ALL THIS BUT I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU IN RETURN, AND REMEMBER, MONEY IS NO OBJECT. TELL ME, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
YOU CAN PAY ME THAT BET, FRANK! HAW, HAW!
WELL, MR. WILLIS, THERE IS SOMETHING YOU COULD DO... YOU DON'T USE THIS LODGE MUCH, DO YOU?
YIPEEE
SOCK 'IM, SPIKE!
YEAH. HURRY UP! I WANNA GO SWIMMIN'!
OH, JIM, ISN'T IT WONDERFUL!
WOW
DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS WHEN THE ST. LOUIS KID HAS HIS TOUGHEST OF ALL BATTLES IN HIS FIGHT TO A CRACK AT THE CROWN! IT'S A KNOCKOUT!!

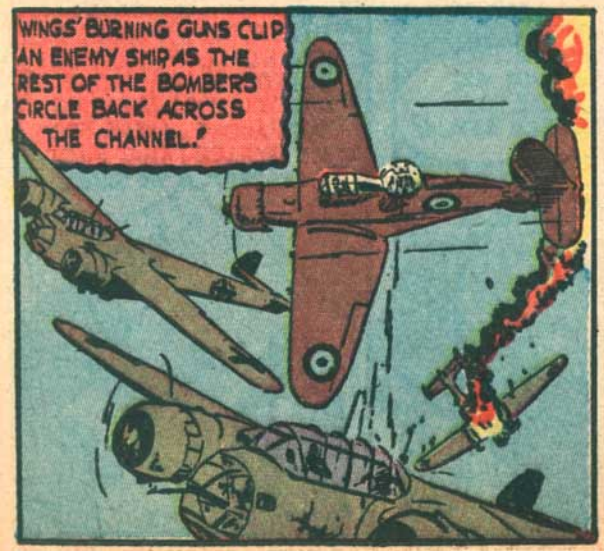
WILBUR IN DECEMBER ZIP COMICS
ARCHIE IN DECEMBER PEP COMICS
THEY'RE A RIOT!

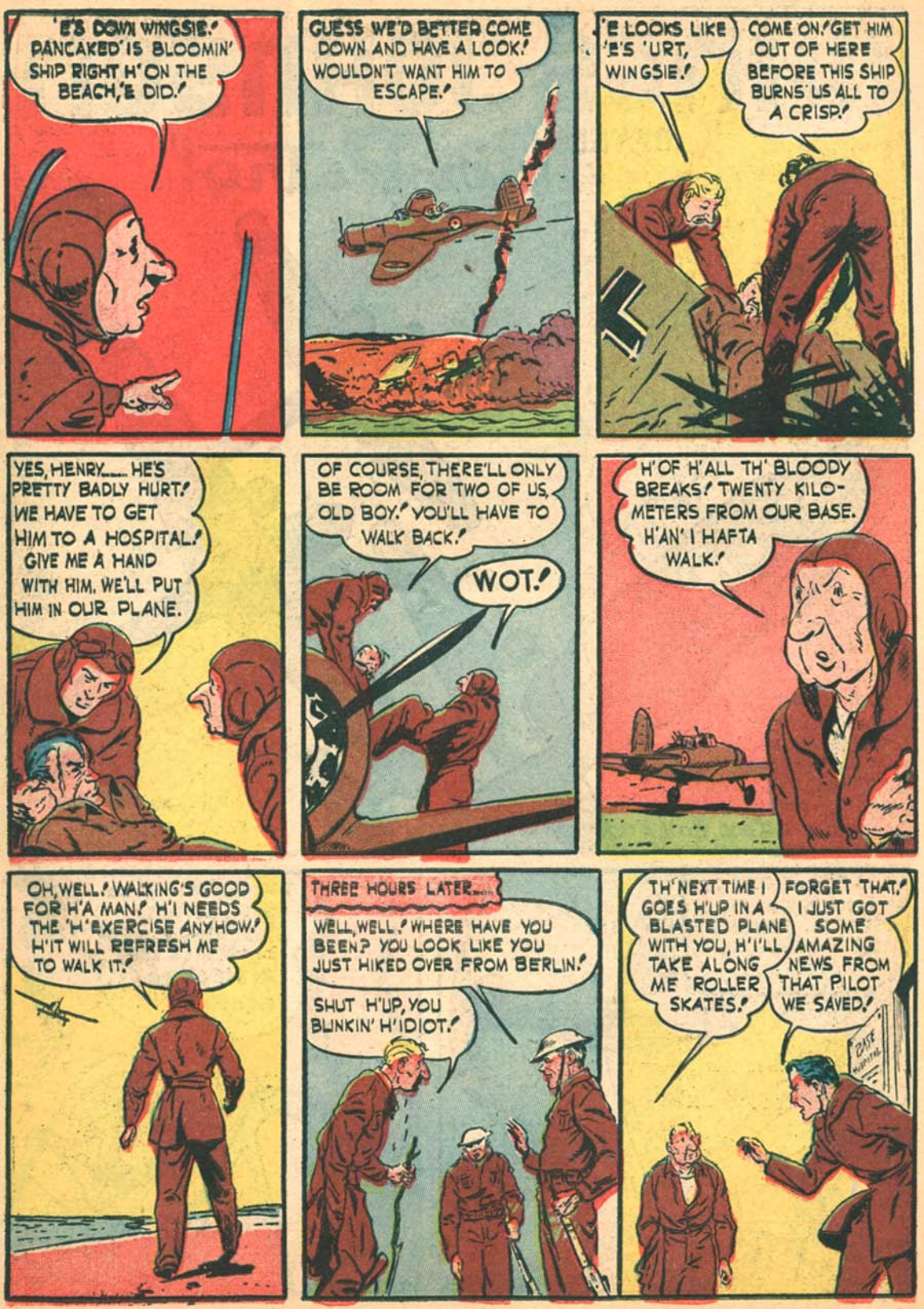


WINGS JOHNSON OF THE Air Patrol

NAZI BOMBERS ATTEMPT TO BREAK THROUGH BRITAINS COAST DEFENSES.... AND THEN...WINGS AND HENRY, ON PATROL DUTY... ROAR OUT OF A CLOUD TO THE ATTACK!

BY ED SMALLE & JOE BLAIR




'E'S DOWN WINGSIE! PANCAKED' IS BLOOMIN' SHIP RIGHT H' ON THE BEACH,'E DID!
GUESS WE'D BETTER COME DOWN AND HAVE A LOOK! WOULDN'T WANT HIM TO ESCAPE!
'E LOOKS LIKE 'E'S 'URT, WINGSIE!
COME ON! GET HIM OUT OF HERE BEFORE THIS SHIP BURNS US ALL TO A CRISP!
YES, HENRY..... HE'S PRETTY BADLY HURT! WE HAVE TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL! GIVE ME A HAND WITH HIM. WE'LL PUT HIM IN OUR PLANE.
OF COURSE, THERE'LL ONLY BE ROOM FOR TWO OF US, OLD BOY! YOU'LL HAVE TO WALK BACK!
WOT!
H' OF H' ALL TH' BLOODY BREAKS! TWENTY KILOMETERS FROM OUR BASE. H'AN' I HAFTA WALK!
OH, WELL! WALKING'S GOOD FOR H'A MAN! H'I NEEDS THE 'H' EXERCISE ANYHOW! H'IT WILL REFRESH ME TO WALK IT!
THREE HOURS LATER....
WELL, WELL! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST HIKED OVER FROM BERLIN!
SHUT H'UP, YOU BLINKIN' H'IDIOT!
TH' NEXT TIME I GOES H'UP IN A BLASTED PLANE WITH YOU, H'I'LL TAKE ALONG ME ROLLER SKATES!
FORGET THAT! I JUST GOT SOME AMAZING NEWS FROM THAT PILOT WE SAVED!

THE FELLOW WAS SO THANKFUL TO ME FOR GETTING HIM TO THE HOSPITAL THAT HE TOLD ME A FORMATION OF A COUPLE OF HUNDRED NAZI SHIPS ARE GOING TO CRACK THROUGH LONDON'S BALLOON BARRAGE TONIGHT!
SOMEHOW, THEY'VE LEARNED WHERE THE "HOTCH" OR PASSAGEWAY, THROUGH THE BARRAGE IS LOCATED! WE'VE GOT TO LEAD THEM ASTRAY, BECAUSE THERE ISN'T TIME TO HAUL DOWN THE BALLOONS AND RE-LOCATE THEM! SO YOU AND I ARE TAKING OFF IN THIS GERMAN PLANE WHICH OUR ENGINEERS BUILT FROM THE WRECKAGE OF SEVERAL OF THEM WE SHOT DOWN!
WINGS' COMMANDING OFFICER HAS A FINAL WORD WITH THEM.....
YOU REALIZE OF COURSE, THAT THIS IS A MOST DANGEROUS OPERATION?
YES, SIR! BUT WE'RE NOT WORRYING ABOUT THAT!
ALL WE CARE ABOUT IS BREAKING UP THAT FORMATION! OUR OWN SKINS DON'T COUNT MUCH AGAINST THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF LONDON CITIZENS!
IS THAT SO!
CHEERIO, OLD TOPS!
CAPTAIN, THERE GO TWO OF THE BRAVEST FLIERS IN THE R.A.F.
I HOPE THEY GET BACK, SAFE! BUT I HAVE MY DOUBTS!
A SHORT WHILE LATER.....
HERE THEY COME HENRY! LET'S HOPE WE HAVE SOME LUCK!
IN THE GERMAN FLIGHT LEADER'S SHIP.....
ON THE ALERT! GERMAN SHIP APPROACHING! BUT IT MAY BE A DIRTY ENGLISH TRICK!
WINGS SWINGS HIS SHIP ALONGSIDE THAT OF THE FLIGHT LEADER.....
AND SIGNALS THAT HE IS TO LEAD THEM THROUGH THE BARRAGE.....

HENRY! DON'T THUMB YOUR NOSE! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE FRIENDLY, YOU JERK!

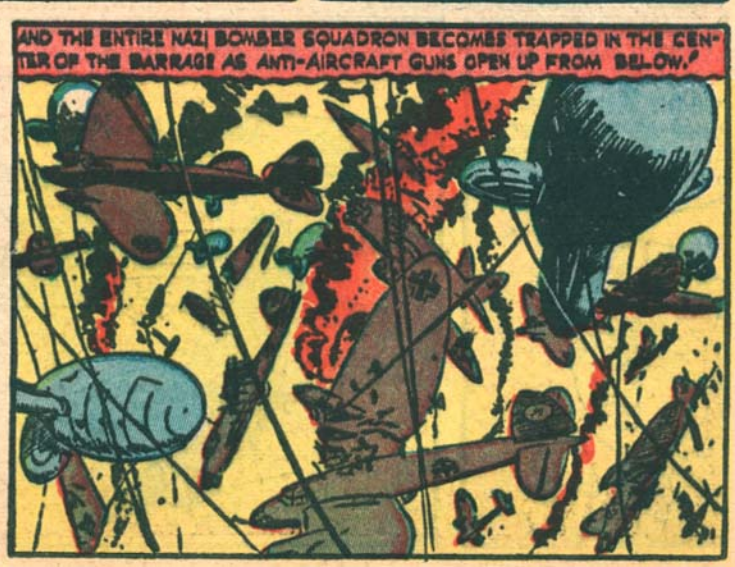
WELL, H'ALL RIGHT H'IF YOU SAY SO.... BUT H'I DON'T HAVE TO SMILE H'AT THEM, DO I?

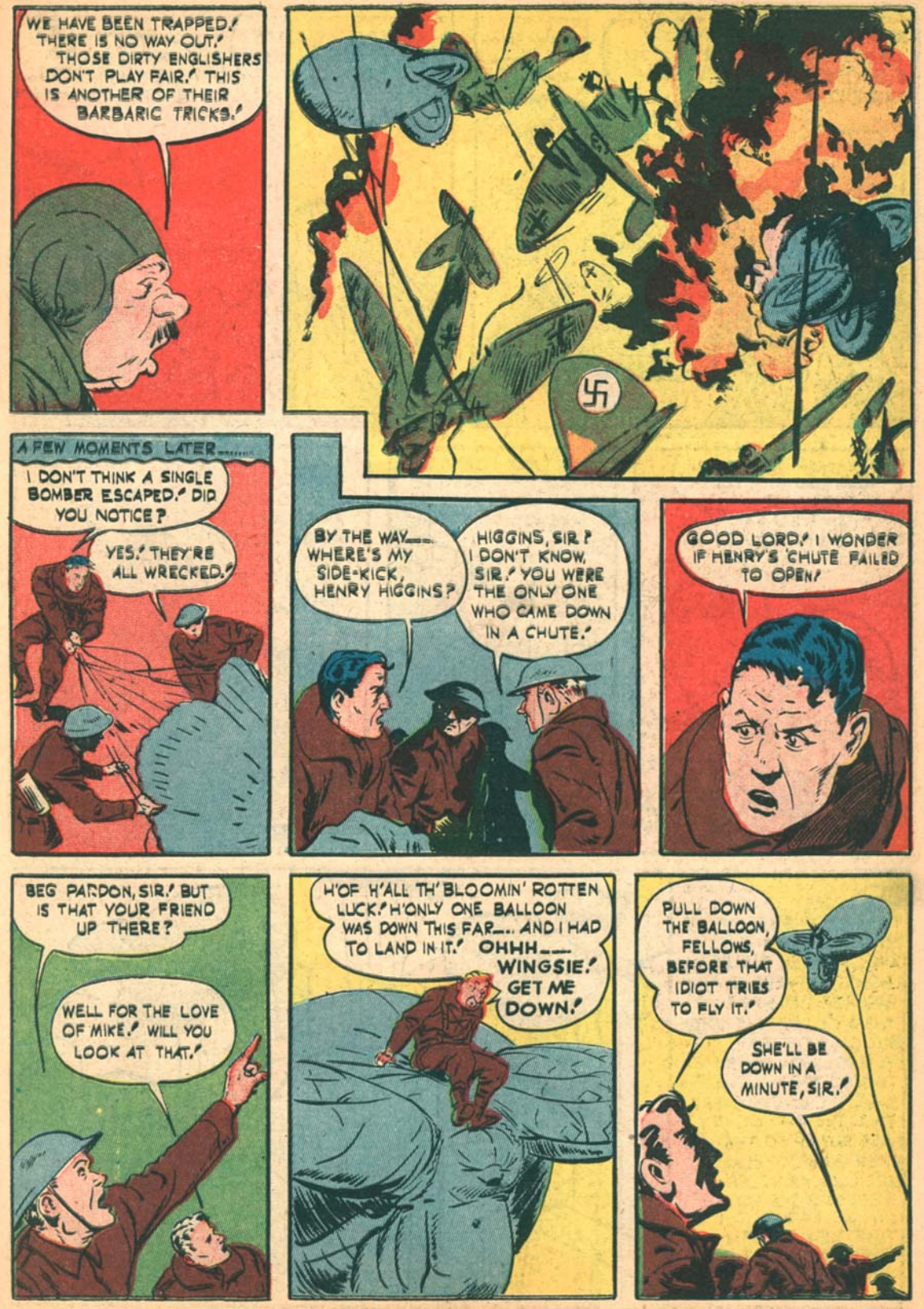
THE NAZI BOMBERS RE-ALIGN THEMSELVES IN FORMATION WITH WINGS AS THE LEADER....

WELL, HENRY.... HERE WE GO! WE'RE COMING INTO THE BARRAGE!

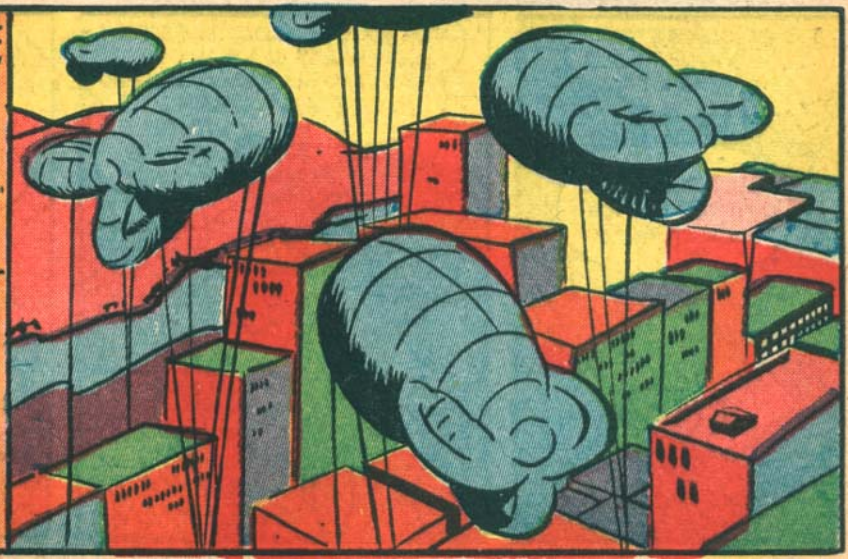
SUDDENLY IN A LIGHTNING-LIKE MANEUVER, WINGS WHIPS HIS SHIP INTO A VERTICAL BANK, IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID THE CABLES.!
BAIL OUT, HENRY!

WITH THE SHIP HOPLESSLY ENTANGLED AMONG THE CABLES, THE TWO LEAP!


AND THE ENTIRE NAZI BOMBER SQUADRON BECOMES TRAPPED IN THE CENTER OF THE BARRAGE AS ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS OPEN UP FROM BELOW.!


WE HAVE BEEN TRAPPED! THERE IS NO WAY OUT! THOSE DIRTY ENGLISHERS DON'T PLAY FAIR! THIS IS ANOTHER OF THEIR BARBARIC TRICKS!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER.....
I DON'T THINK A SINGLE BOMBER ESCAPED! DID YOU NOTICE?
YES! THEY'RE ALL WRECKED!
BY THE WAY.... WHERE'S MY SIDE-KICK, HENRY HIGGINS?
HIGGINS, SIR? I DON'T KNOW, SIR! YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAME DOWN IN A CHUTE!
GOOD LORD! I WONDER IF HENRY'S 'CHUTE FAILED TO OPEN!
BEG PARDON, SIR! BUT IS THAT YOUR FRIEND UP THERE?
WELL FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE! WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT!
H'OF H'ALL TH' BLOOMIN' ROTTEN LUCK! H'ONLY ONE BALLOON WAS DOWN THIS FAR.... AND I HAD TO LAND IN IT! OHHH.... WINGSIE! GET ME DOWN!
PULL DOWN THE BALLOON, FELLOWS, BEFORE THAT IDIOT TRIES TO FLY IT!
SHE'LL BE DOWN IN A MINUTE, SIR!

HOW LONDON'S BALLOON BARRAGE WORKS:....EACH NIGHT, THE BALLOONS ARE INFLATED AND LET UP IN THE AIR ON STEEL CABLES. HOWEVER, THERE IS A PASSAGE BETWEEN THEM-CALLED "THE NOTCH" BUT ONLY THE R.A.F. FLIERS KNOW WHERE THIS "NOTCH" IS.... THE PASSAGE IS CHANGED EVERY TIME THE BALLOONS ARE PUT UP, SO THAT EVEN IF ENEMY PLANES ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO DISCOVER THE "NOTCH" ON ONE RAID-BY THE TIME THEY RETURN THE "NOTCH" HAS BEEN SHIFTED AGAIN!



BOB PHANTOM

SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD

WITH A WILD SWINGING OF STEEL CABLES A CRANE-LOAD OF GIRDERS LASHES OUT OF CONTROL AT TOM DAVIES AS HE SUPERVISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING ON HIS PROPERTY—

JUST THEN WALT WHITNEY COMES ALONG...

HOLY SMOKES! THOSE GIRDERS ARE HEADED RIGHT AT THAT MAN! HE DOESN'T SEE THEM!

THE NEXT MOMENT, A SWIRL OF WIND AND A PUFF OF EERIE, WHITE SMOKE...BOB PHANTOM!

A SWIFT FLYING LUNGE AND DAVIES IS SWEPT ASIDE OUT OF DANGER.....
YOU'D BETTER BE MORE CAREFUL. THAT WAS A PRETTY SERIOUS ACCIDENT YOU ALMOST HAD!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
I'M NOT SO SURE THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
TOO MANY STRANGE THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING AROUND HERE LATELY!
BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S MY PROBLEM. I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER ANYONE ELSE WITH IT!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER, WALT WHITNEY AGAIN CONTINUES ON HIS WAY....
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANYTHING IN WHAT HE SAYS? OH WELL, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO FIND OUT IF I EXPECT TO GET DOWN TO THE STANLEY TRIAL!
MEANWHILE AT THE COUNTY JAIL, IN THE CELL OF BUGS STANLEY, BIG SHOT RACKETEER, WHO IS BEING TRIED FOR MURDER..
WELL, HOW'S IT COMING? DID YOU STOP THEM?
DONT WORRY, CHIEF! YOU'LL BE OUTTA HERE BY TOMORROW!
REMEMBER, NO SLIP-UPS THIS TIME!
OKAY!

OUTSIDE, WHITNEY ARRIVES...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOYS? ARE YOU AFRAID STANLEY WILL DECIDE TO TAKE A WALK?
SORRY, WHITNEY, THE PLACE IS FULL. NO ROOM FOR YOU!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? I'M A MEMBER OF THE PRESS! I'M ALLOWED IN HERE. STEP ASIDE!
TOO BAD, WISE GUY
WE GOT ORDERS TO LET JUST SO MANY IN AND NO MORE!
JUST THEN...
BREAK IT UP, BOYS! I'VE GOT PLACES TO GO!
PLACES TO GO! WITH HIS BOSS ON TRIAL FOR MURDER! SOMETHING DON'T SMELL RIGHT!
BAH! YOU GUYS ARE SORE BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS SCOOPING YOU ON YOUR OWN JOBS!
THIS GUY'LL TAKE A LITTLE FOLLOWING!
THE RACKETEER ENTERS AN OLD HOUSE...
THE BOYS BETTER BE READY! WE'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST!
I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO?
HE MUST HAVE GONE UP HERE!

HE MUST BE IN THERE. I HEAR VOICES.!

I WISH I COULD MAKE OUT WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.!

SUDDENLY THE DOOR OPENS AND...
C'MON, WE'D BETTER GET DOWN TO THAT EXCAVATION BEFORE THEY DIG TOO DEEP!

EXCAVATION, DIGGING- HOLY SMOKES.! I'LL BET THERE'S SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE GUYS AND THOSE PHONY ACCIDENTS.!

AT THE EXCAVATION...
THAT'S THE SPOT DOWN THERE.!

C'MON, LET'S GET HOPPING. WE GOTTA FINISH BEFORE THE WORKMEN GET BACK ON THE JOB.

THE MEN WORK FAST AND FURIOUSLY...

SUDDENLY, A SWIRL OF WIND, A PUFF OF EERIE WHITE SMOKE AND BOB PHANTOM APPEARS!

DON'T LET ME DISTURB YOU BOYS.! KEEP RIGHT ON WITH YOUR WORK.!
LOOK-IT'S BOB PHANTOM.!

GET 'IM, BOYS!

MUSN'T WASTE YOUR AMUNITION THAT WAY!

SMACK!

WHAT'S YOUR HURRY?
EEOW

NOW MAYBE YOU'LL TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? AREN'T YOU BOYS ON SPEAKING TERMS WITH ME? I THINK I KNOW HOW TO BRING YOU CLAMS OUT OF YOUR SHELLS!

LEAPING INTO THE CONTROL CAB OF THE STEAM SHOVEL, BOB PHANTOM...

..SWINGS IT OUT OVER THE GANGSTER'S HEADS, AND....

DON'T DO IT! I'LL TALK! I'LL TALK!!
STOP! STOP!

WE'RE BUGS STANLEY'S MEN. HE KNOCKED OFF CHARLIE ADAMS, ONE OF THE D.A.'S SNOOPERS, AND WE BURIED HIM HERE. BUGS WAS PICKED UP FOR THE KILLING, BUT SINCE THEY CAN'T FIND THE BODY, THEY'LL HAVE TO SPRING HIM!

WHEN THESE GUYS STARTED TO EXCAVATE HERE WE TRIED TO STOP THEM, TIL AFTER THE TRIAL. WE DON'T CARE IF THEY FIND THE BODY THEN. ONCE BUGS IS LOOSE THEY CAN'T TRY HIM ON THE SAME CHARGE AGAIN!

MEANWHILE, AT THE COURTROOM...
STANLEY, MUCH AS I REGRET TO, I'LL HAVE TO LET YOU GO FREE. YOU'VE BEEN HELD FOR MURDER, YET THE ONLY EVIDENCE WE HAVE AGAINST YOU IS CIRCUMSTANTIAL. AND IT PAINS ME TO SAY WE CAN'T CONVICT YOU ON THAT!

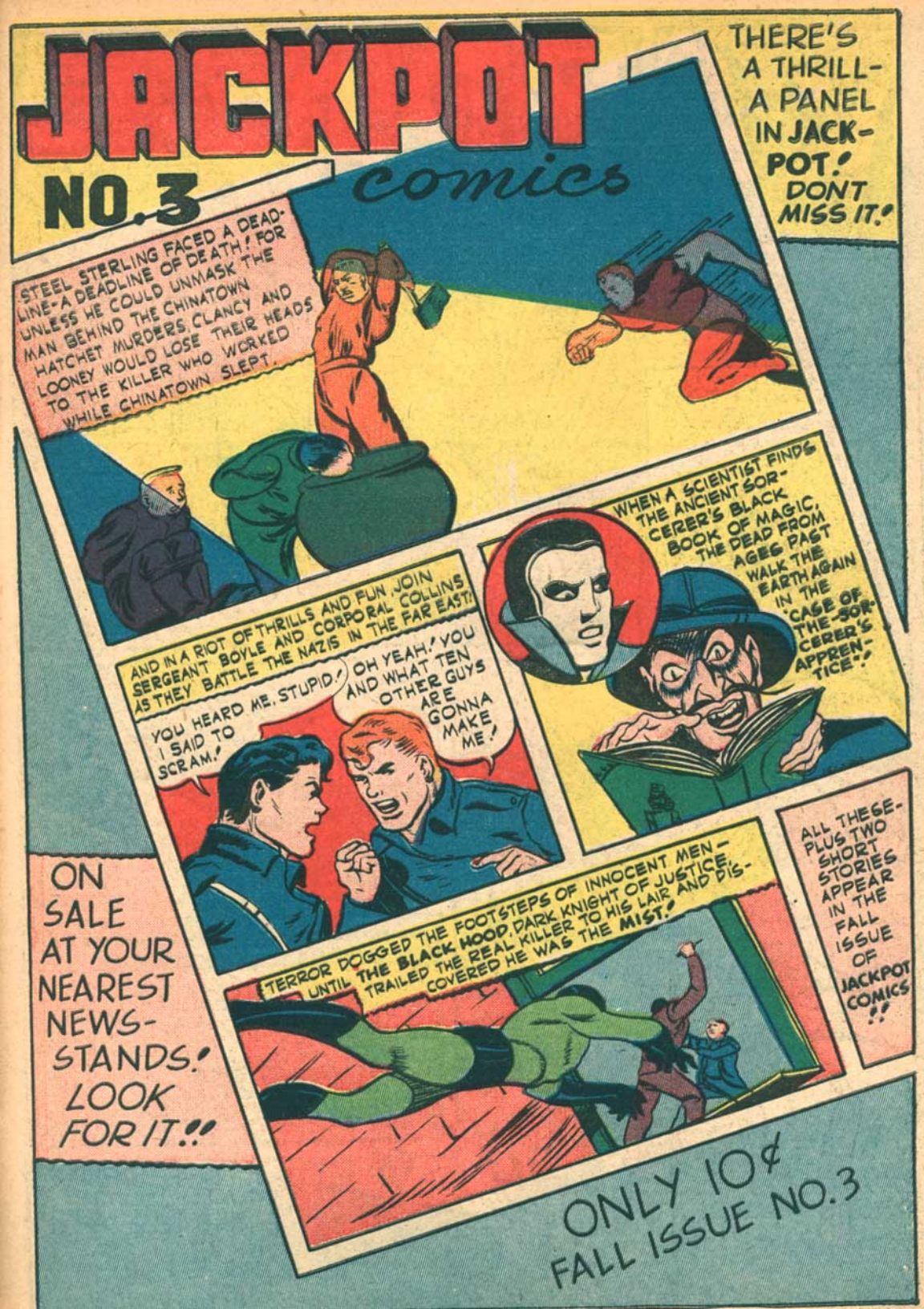
SUDDENLY, A SWIRL OF WIND AND A PUFF OF EERIE, WHITE SMOKE... AND BOB PHANTOM APPEARS IN THE COURTROOM!

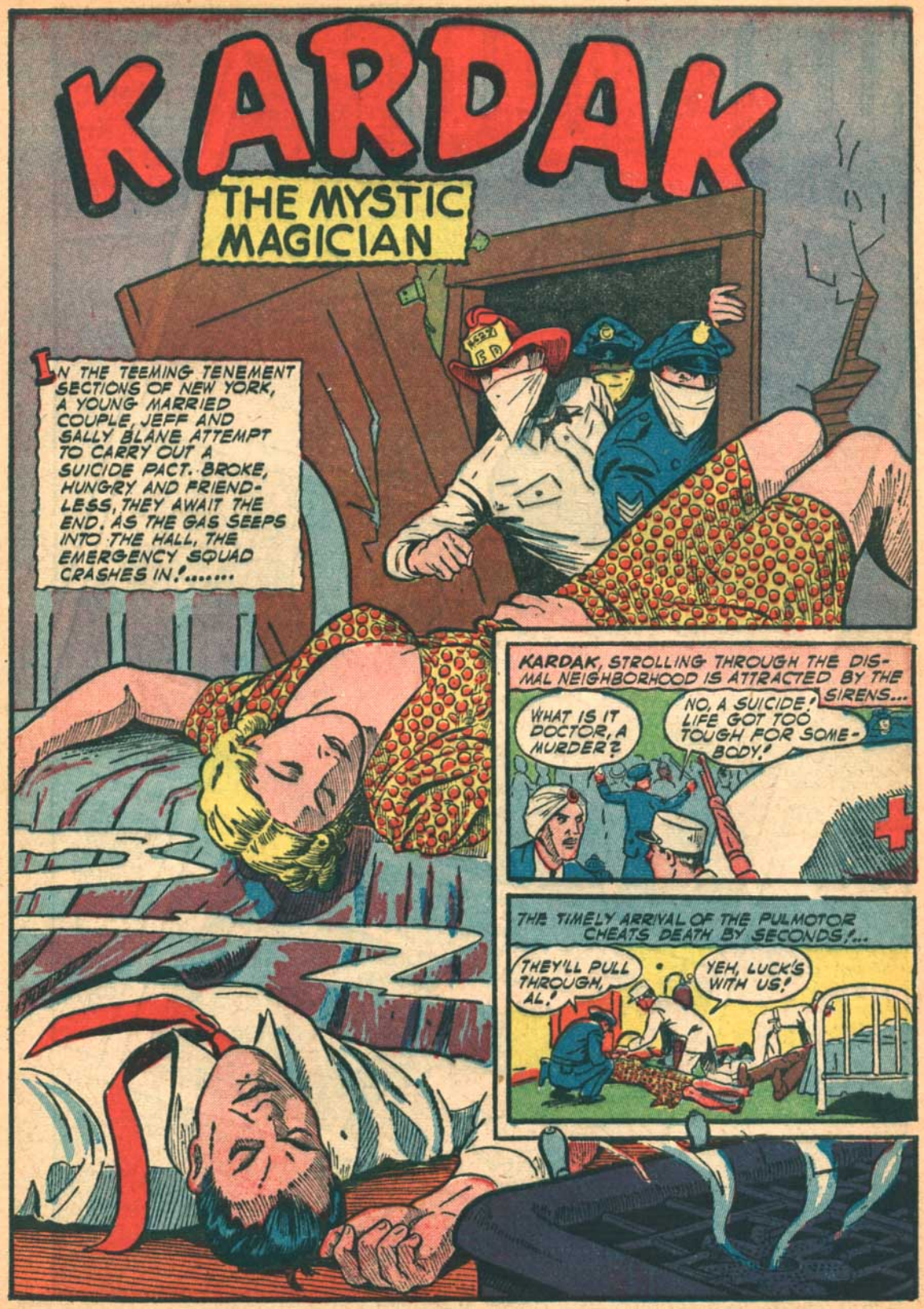
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
HOLD IT, JUDGE! I HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE YOU NEED RIGHT HERE! DON'T LET HIM GO!

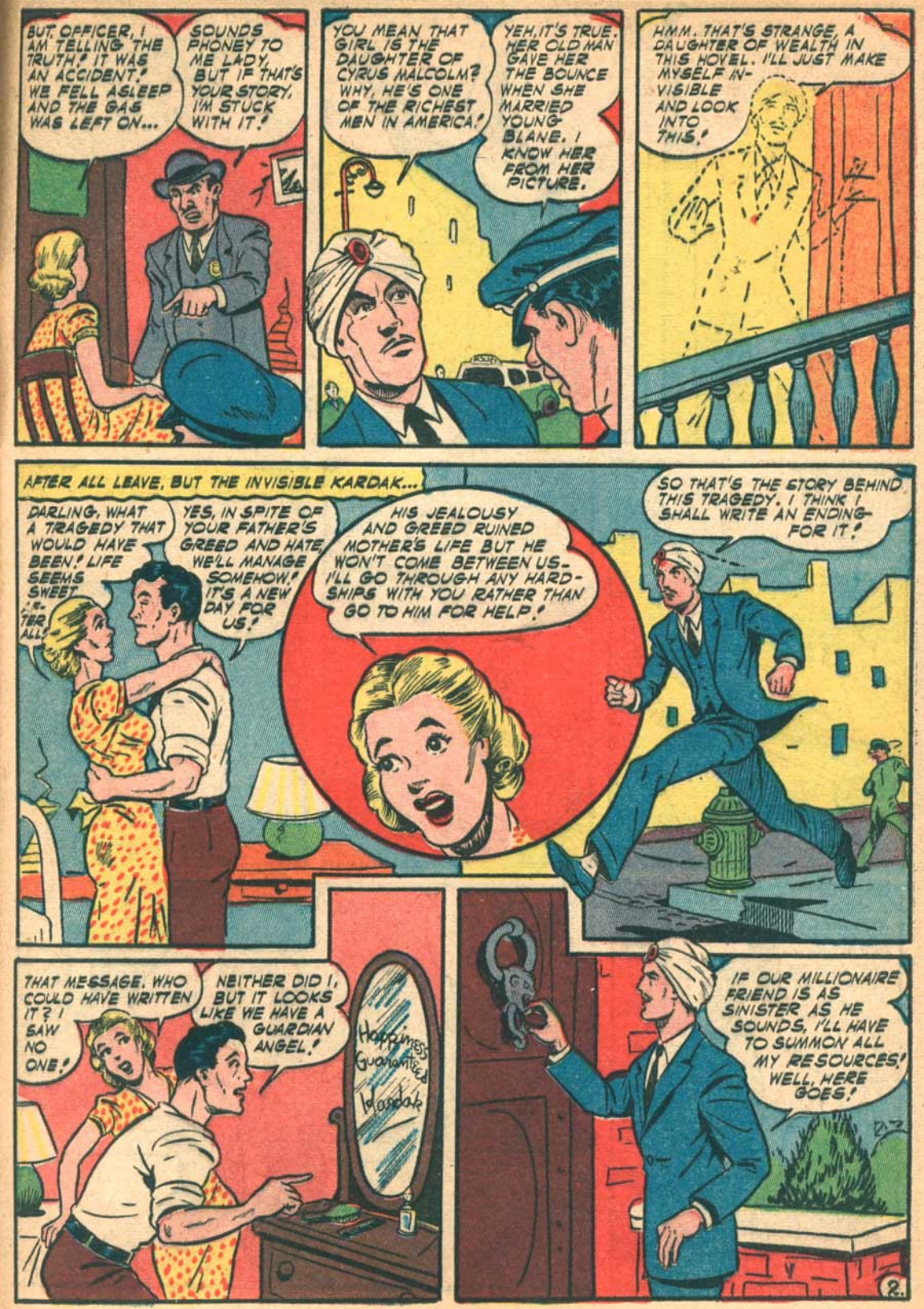
HM... IT'S THE CORPSE OF CHARLIE ADAMS, ALL RIGHT! AT LAST WE HAVE SOMETHING DEFINITE TO BASE OUR CASE ON!

HOLD IT, STANLEY! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
WELL, STANLEY, IT LOOKS AS IF I'LL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF SENTENCING YOU AFTER ALL!

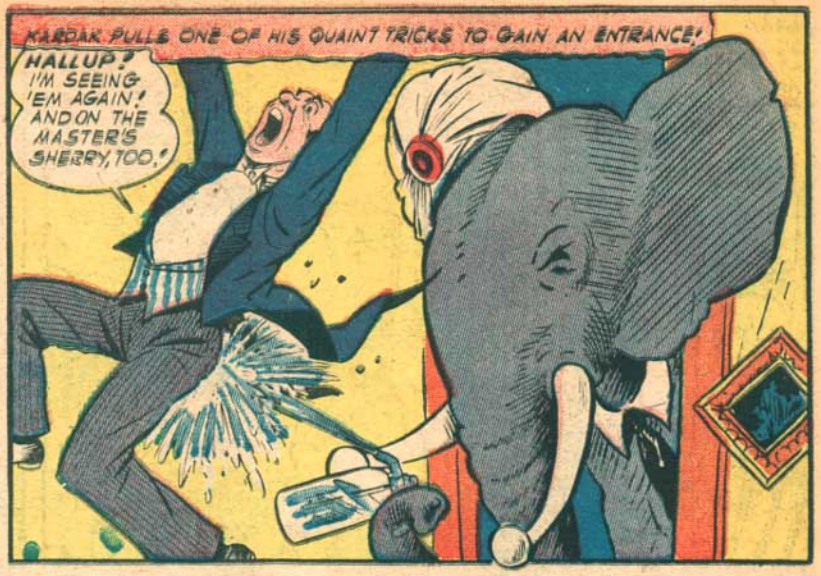
NEXT DAY, IN FRONT OF THE COURTHOUSE...
HERE Y'ARE BOYS! READ ALL ABOUT THE STANLEY MURDER TRIAL IN MY COLUMN! I GUESS YOU DON'T GET MUCH NEWS LOAFING AROUND OUT HERE!
AW BEAT IT, WISE GUY!


JACKPOT
NO. 3
comics
THERE'S A THRILL-A PANEL IN JACKPOT! DONT MISS IT!
STEEL STERLING FACED A DEADLINE-A DEADLINE OF DEATH! FOR UNLESS HE COULD UNMASK THE MAN BEHIND THE CHINATOWN HATCHET MURDERS, CLANCY AND LOONEY WOULD LOSE THEIR HEADS TO THE KILLER WHO WORKED WHILE CHINATOWN SLEPT.
AND IN A RIOT OF THRILLS AND FUN JOIN SERGEANT BOYLE AND CORPORAL COLLINS AS THEY BATTLE THE NAZIS IN THE FAR EAST!
YOU HEARD ME, STUPID! I SAID TO SCRAM!
OH YEAH! YOU AND WHAT TEN OTHER GUYS ARE GONNA MAKE ME!
WHEN A SCIENTIST FINDS THE ANCIENT SORCERER'S BLACK BOOK OF MAGIC, THE DEAD FROM AGES PAST WALK THE EARTH AGAIN IN THE 'CASE OF THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE'!
TERROR DOGGED THE FOOTSTEPS OF INNOCENT MEN—UNTIL THE BLACK HOOD, DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE, TRAILED THE REAL KILLER TO HIS LAIR AND DISCOVERED HE WAS THE MIST!
ALL THESE-PLUS TWO SHORT STORIES APPEAR IN THE FALL ISSUE OF JACKPOT COMICS!!
ON SALE AT YOUR NEAREST NEWS-STANDS! LOOK FOR IT!!
ONLY 10¢
FALL ISSUE NO. 3


KARDAK
THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN
IN THE TEEMING TENEMENT SECTIONS OF NEW YORK, A YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE, JEFF AND SALLY BLANE ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT A SUICIDE PACT. BROKE, HUNGRY AND FRIENDLESS, THEY AWAIT THE END. AS THE GAS SEEPS INTO THE HALL, THE EMERGENCY SQUAD CRASHES IN!.....
KARDAK, STROLLING THROUGH THE DISMAL NEIGHBORHOOD IS ATTRACTED BY THE SIRENS...
WHAT IS IT DOCTOR, A MURDER?
NO, A SUICIDE! LIFE GOT TOO TOUGH FOR SOMEBODY!
THE TIMELY ARRIVAL OF THE PULMOTOR CHEATS DEATH BY SECONDS!...
THEY'LL PULL THROUGH, AL!
YEH, LUCK'S WITH US!


BUT, OFFICER, I AM TELLING THE TRUTH! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! WE FELL ASLEEP AND THE GAS WAS LEFT ON...
SOUNDS PHONEY TO ME LADY, BUT IF THAT'S YOUR STORY, I'M STUCK WITH IT!
YOU MEAN THAT GIRL IS THE DAUGHTER OF CYRUS MALCOLM? WHY, HE'S ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN AMERICA!
YEH, IT'S TRUE. HER OLD MAN GAVE HER THE BOUNCE WHEN SHE MARRIED YOUNG-BLANE. I KNOW HER FROM HER PICTURE.
HMM. THAT'S STRANGE, A DAUGHTER OF WEALTH IN THIS HOVEL. I'LL JUST MAKE MYSELF IN-VISIBLE AND LOOK INTO THIS!
AFTER ALL LEAVE, BUT THE INVISIBLE KARDAK...
DARLING, WHAT A TRAGEDY THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN! LIFE SEEMS SWEET AFTER ALL!
YES, IN SPITE OF YOUR FATHER'S GREED AND HATE, WE'LL MANAGE SOMEHOW! IT'S A NEW DAY FOR US!
HIS JEALOUSY AND GREED RUINED MOTHER'S LIFE BUT HE WON'T COME BETWEEN US- I'LL GO THROUGH ANY HARD-SHIPS WITH YOU RATHER THAN GO TO HIM FOR HELP!
SO THAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THIS TRAGEDY. I THINK I SHALL WRITE AN ENDING FOR IT!
THAT MESSAGE. WHO COULD HAVE WRITTEN IT? I SAW NO ONE!
NEITHER DID I, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A GUARDIAN ANGEL!
Happiness Guaranteed Kardak
IF OUR MILLIONAIRE FRIEND IS AS SINISTER AS HE SOUNDS, I'LL HAVE TO SUMMON ALL MY RESOURCES! WELL, HERE GOES!
2.

KINDLY TELL MR. MALCOLM THAT MR. KARDAK WISHES TO SEE HIM.
REALLY, SIR, YOU ARE AN OPTIMIST. MR. MALCOLM SEES NO ONE! KINDLY LEAVE, SIR!

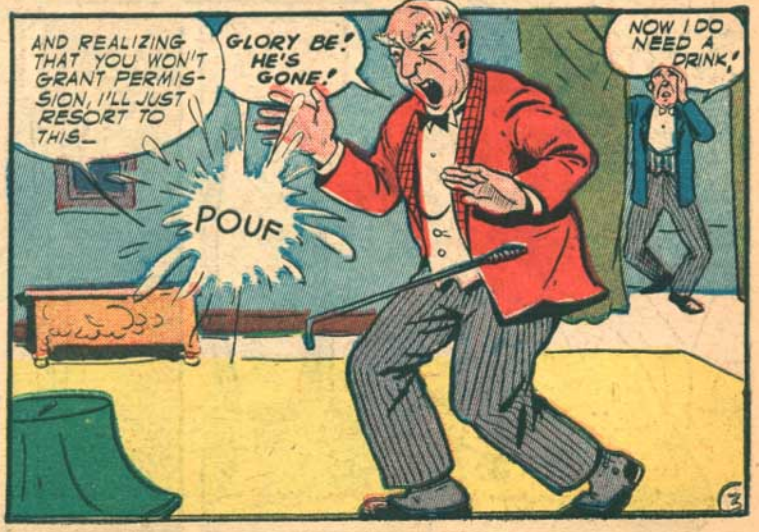

KARDAK PULLS ONE OF HIS QUAINT TRICKS TO GAIN AN ENTRANCE!
HALLUP! I'M SEEING 'EM AGAIN! AND ON THE MASTER'S SHERRY, TOO!

HM, THIS LOOKS LIKE GREED IN A TYPICAL SETTING!
KIDNAPPERS! OUTSIDE, YOU ROGUE! NOT ONE CENT RANSOM OR TRIBUTE!

MR. MALCOLM, I CAME IN REFERENCE TO YOUR DAUGHTER, SHE AND HER HUSBAND—
I'M NOT IN THE LEAST BIT INTERESTED IN THEM!

SHE'S JUST LIKE HER MOTHER— SHE, TOO, RAN AWAY WITH A WORTHLESS SCAMP! SHE CHEATED ME OF LOVE, MONEY, RESPECT!

I WIPED HER MOTHER OUT OF MY MEMORY TWENTY YEARS AGO! NOTHING REMAINS BUT HER ROOM FILLED WITH WORTHLESS JUNK!
I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT ROOM!


AND REALIZING THAT YOU WON'T GRANT PERMISSION, I'LL JUST RESORT TO THIS—
POUF
GLORY BE! HE'S GONE!
NOW I DO NEED A DRINK!

KARDAK ENTERS A ROOM WHICH HAS BEEN LOCKED FOR YEARS AND SEES...
WHY, SHE WAS LOVELY. AND HER DAUGHTER LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE HER!

WHAT A BLIND FOOL HE'S BEEN! SHE WAS TRUE AND FAITHFUL BEFORE HIS MAD JEALOUSY BLINDED HIM!

THOSE FOOTSTEPS... THEY'RE IN HER ROOM. IT'S THAT MEDDLER—THAT MAGICIAN!

GET OUT OF THAT ROOM, BLAST YOU! GET OUT, OR I'LL SEND A BULLET THROUGH YOU!
I HARDLY THINK SO, BUT DO COME IN! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, MR. MALCOLM!

YOUR LATE WIFE, MR. MALCOLM. A WOMAN YOU WRONGED IN LIFE AND HATED IN DEATH!
THE GUN, CYRUS! DROP IT—DON'T MAKE ANOTHER MISTAKE!
NO, NO—IT CAN'T BE! SHE'S DEAD!

I'VE COME BACK TO SHOW YOU HOW THAT MISTAKE WAS MADE! YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN YEARS AGO—YOU MUST LISTEN NOW!

WITH A WAVE OF THE HAND, KARDAK RECONSTRUCTS A FAMILIAR SCENE....
WHY IT'S PURNELL'S OFFICE THE MAN WHO RAN AWAY WITH MY WIFE...
YES, CYRUS, EXACTLY AS IT LOOKED 20 YEARS AGO! WATCH!

IF HE EVER DISCOVERS I'VE COME TO YOU FOR MONEY, I'LL DIE—BUT WE ARE IN DESPERATE STRAITS—UNLESS HE HAS FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS TODAY...
YOU NEEDN'T EXPLAIN, ELLEN. I'LL HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN! YOU ARE MY BEST FRIENDS!

IF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS WILL SAVE CY'S BUSINESS, HERE IT IS!
I NEVER CAN THANK YOU ENOUGH. BUT HE MUST NEVER FIND OUT!
SO, THIS IS WHAT I FIND — MY WIFE TAKING MONEY FROM ANOTHER MAN — AND THAT MAN MY BEST FRIEND!
NO-NO- IT'S ALL PERFECTLY INNOCENT!
THIS IS THE END! IF I CAN'T TRUST MY WIFE, SHE CAN'T REMAIN MY WIFE! GET OUT!
AND YOU, MALCOLM, THINKING THEY RAN AWAY TOGETHER, DEFILED THEM TO THE WORLD AND YOURSELF. BUT THIS IS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED: SHORTLY AFTER, TWO UNIDENTIFIED HUMANS WERE HAULED FROM EAST RIVER - THEY WERE BURIED IN POTTER'S FIELD.
POLICE
HARBOR PATROL NO. 12
ELLEN, COME BACK TO ME! I DIDN'T KNOW THE TRUTH — I'VE BEEN A BLIND FOOL — ELLEN!
NO, MR. MALCOLM, SHE'LL NEVER RETURN. NOW YOU SEE THE PARALLEL BETWEEN HER TRAGEDY AND JANE'S.
THAT SAME DAY, A HUGE CAR VISITS THE EAST SIDE TENEMENTS. YES, KARDAK IS ONE OF THE PASSENGERS....
THANKS TO THAT MAGICIAN, I SEE THE LIGHT! IF YOU RETURN, MY FORTUNE IS YOUR'S.
NOT YOUR FORTUNE, DAD, WE ONLY WANT YOUR LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING.
YES, MY FRIENDS, MONEY OFTEN BLINDS A MAN TO THE TRUTH, AND KNOWING THE TRUTH IS LIFE'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT!
KARDAK, THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN RETURNS NEXT MONTH IN THE BIZARRE CASE OF "MAN WHO PLAYED MIDAS"!

READY for CHRISTMAS

MY BRAND ON STOCK!
"Looks just like a real Cowboy Carbine. That's why I'm proud to have my name an' face branded on th' stock!"
—RED RYDER

RED RYDER

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1000-SHOT COWBOY CARBINE

16-inch LEATHER SADDLE THONG!
"You can hang my carbine on your wall like this... or lash it to yore bike. Thong comes attached to Carbine Ring —at no extra cost, Podner!"

WESTERN CARBINE RING!
"Th' real article, boys! For ridin' th' range, I slip a stout 3-foot cord thru th' Ring and tie th' other end to my saddle-horn, so she can't fall clear to th' ground if she slides outa my saddle holster or gits knocked from my hands by a ba'ar!"

SOME SIGHTS!
"It's a Humdinger, Fellers! Raise th' Adjustable Double-Notch Rear Sight for long range—lower it for short. Aim thru small notch for target work...large notch for snap-shooting. And say! Daisy made th' Front Sight GOLDEN-COLORED to remind yuh of th' Golden West!"

GOLDEN-BANDED BARREL!
"Those glittery golden-colored bands 'round th' muzzle an' fore-piece look mighty purty ...kinda like th' real gold I used to prospect for out West. You'll be proud of 'em!"

CARBINE STYLE FORE-PIECE!
"Grab this husky, semi-curved, *full length* hand-hold . . . th' wood just 'snugs' into your hand and holds th' Carbine steady as a rock!"

LIGHTNING-LOADER INVENTION!
"Twist th' magazine — pour in 1000 shot in 20 seconds — then shoot 1000 times without re-loadin' once!"

IT'S YOURS for $2.95

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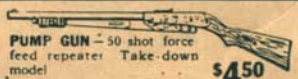

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